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volume 7
p n y x t r
barbapapa
Unproductive

ピアノの森

7

一色まこと

モーニングKC 1656

ピアノの森 7

一色まこと

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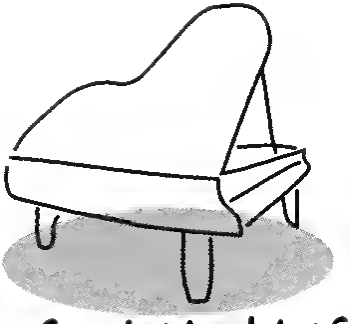
The Perfect World of KAI

ピアノの森

7

一色まこと
ISSHIKI Makoto

The Perfect World of KAI



The Perfect World of KAI

7

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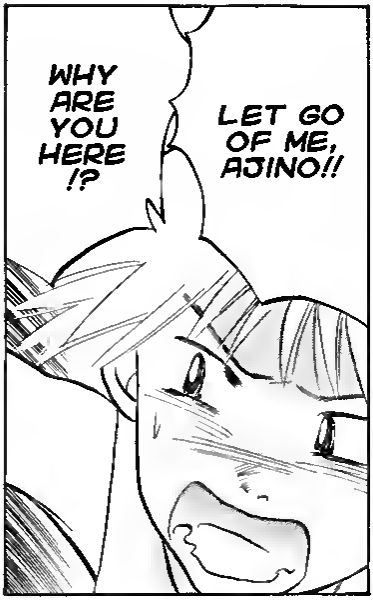
This work is a piece of fiction.
Any resemblances to actual people, organizations, and/or events are purely coincidental.

ICHI-NOSE !!!
AAAAAH!

AAAH !!
IT'S DANGER-OUS. GET AWAY FROM HERE, RIGHT NOW!!!
NO!! STOP!! DON'T COME OVER HERE !!
ゴオオ
THAT'S MY PIANO !!!
AAAAR-RGGGHHH! OUT OF THE WAY!!!

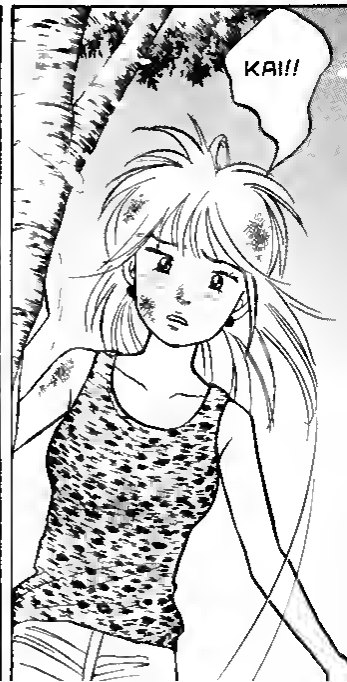
IDIOT!!! YOU WANT TO DIE !?
ICHI-NOSE !!

ICHI-NOSE !
LET GO OF ME— !!!!


WHY ARE YOU HERE !?
LET GO OF ME, AJINO!!

YOU CAN'T DO ANY-THING ABOUT IT ANY-MORE!!
CALM DOWN, ICHI-NOSE!!

ITS LIFE HAS RUN ITS COURSE !!!
LET IT BE!


KAI!!

THINK OF IT THAT WAY... AND.

ITS LIFE HAS RUN OUT.

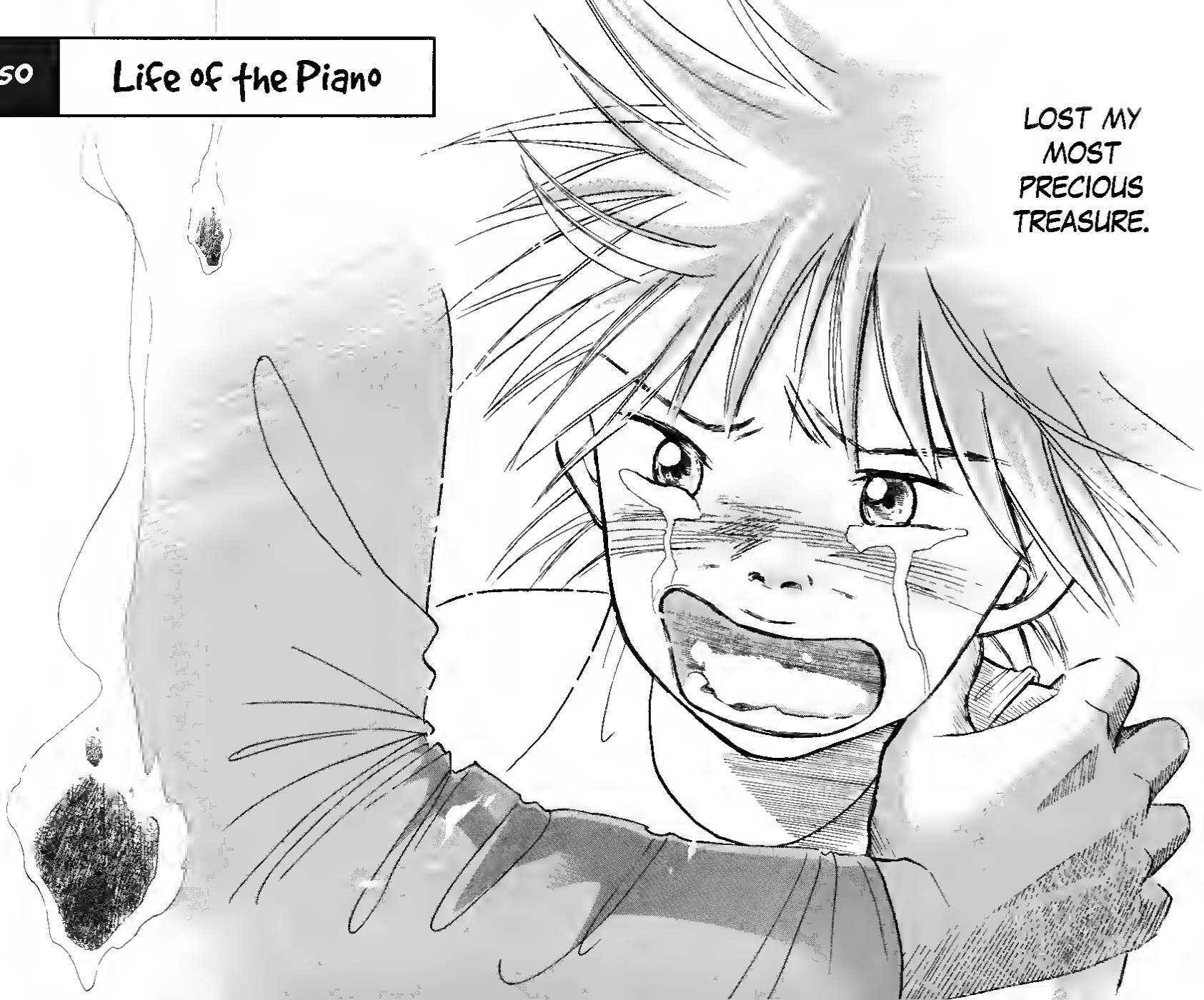
LET IT PASS AWAY.

ピアノ

SHUT UP!!!
INSIDE OF YOU
THE PIANO OF THE FOREST WILL LIVE ON
EVEN IF IT NO LONGER HAS A MATERIAL FORM, AS LONG AS YOU EXIST,

THAT SUMMER, I...
ゴオオオオ——!!!!

Chapter 50 Life of the Piano



IT WASN'T ANYTHING TO GET ALL WORKED UP ABOUT AFTER ALL...

あはははは…

AHAHAHAHA

BAR

雀

暁

暁

MAKING ME WORRY KAI MIGHT BECOME COMPLETELY USELESS FOR WORK DUE TO THE SHOCK,

YOU GUYS GAVE ME A SCARE ALRIGHT...

SUCH A GOOD KID, KAI...

BUT NOTHING COULD BE MORE WRONG HE'S WORKING HARDER THAN EVER

OF HAVING HIS PIANO BURN UP LIKE THAT...

IT REALLY DID US A HUGE FAVOR !!

RIGHT, KAI!? PRAISE THE LIGHT-NING!!

GA HAH HAH

THAT HUGE HUNK OF JUNK... CONSIDERING HOW WE HAD IT DISPOSED OF FOR FREE, I SHOULD BE THANKING THE HEAVENS!!

"THAT PIANO IS BUSTED!" I HEARD EM SAY.

MON-STER

MON-STER

IN-HUMA

IN-HUMAN

IT WAS HIS PRICELESS POSSESSION... A PIANO THAT LIFTED HIS SPIRIT AS LONG AS IT WAS THERE...

WHETHER IT WAS BROKEN OR NOT, WHETHER IT WAS USELESS OR NOT, SOMETHING PRECIOUS IS STILL SOMETHING PRECIOUS. IT WAS KAI'S TREASURE.

ME TOO. SHE'S SO INSENSI-TIVE OF PEOPLE'S FEELINGS.

I'D RATHER THE LIGHTNING STRUCK HER IN-STEAD.

THAT'S RIGHT! KAI,

YEAH, THAT'S FOR SURE!!!

THAT BITCH IF HER HUSBAND OR HER FAMILY FELL ILL, SHE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HESITATE TO HANG THEM OUT TO DRY AND SELL THEM DOWN THE RIVER

SQUEEZE

HOW ABOUT TRYING YOUR HAND AT LURING IN CUSTOMERS FROM THE STREETS?

SINCE YOU AREN'T SPENDING TIME PLAYING THE PIANO ANYMORE,

BUT IF A CHILD LIKE YOU WERE TO BRING IN THE CUSTOMERS, NOBODY WOULD SUSPECT A THING... YEAH... AND IF YOU PLAY IT COOL, THEY'LL THINK YOU'RE SOME GOOD LITTLE BOY FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

THESE DAYS, THE POLICEMEN HAVE IDENTIFIED EVERYONE IN MY CREW, AND THEY'RE CAUSING ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE,

ANO REI WILL HAVE AN EASIER TIME WITH HER JOB.
YOU'LL BRING IN A LOT OF MONEY.
SERIOUSLY, CONSIDER IT
YOU'RE SMART. IT'O PROBABLY ONLY TAKE YOU TWO OR THREE DAYS TO LEARN THE ROPES
SHUT YER TRAP!!
KAI'S ALSO ONLY IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND... REI WOULO NEVER APPROVE OF SUCH A THING...
LURING IN CUSTOMERS IS IN NO WAY A JOB FOR A KIO.
NO WAY!!

KAI WILL DO WHAT THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST" WANTS OF HIM!!! NOT WHAT REI WANTS TO HAPPEN!!

THOSE BORN TO THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST" ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST", AND BELONG TO THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST" JUST LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE!!

LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH OF A MOTHER REI IS TO KAI,

CHILDREN INCLUDED !!!

BECAUSE HERE AT THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST," THOSE THAT GOT THE GREEN, GET TO WRITE THE RULES!!!

I'LL... THINK ABOUT IT...

ALRIGHT ALREADY ...

カタッ

IT'S NOT A BAD JOB!! SO THINK ABOUT IT GOOD AND HARD!!

YEAH!!! YOU'RE SO SMART, KAI I KNEW YOU'D UNDER-STAND

Y-

AHHH, DON'T TALK LIKE THAT

YEAH MAYBE EVEN CHOPPED UP AND BURIED NEAR THE MOUNTAINS OR SOME-THING...

SPEAKING OF WHICH, IF WE DON'T BRING IN MONEY, WE'LL BE SOLD DOWN THE RIVER TOO...

WOW, WHAT A MON-STER ...

!!!
REI—
YEAAA-AAAARGH, HEEE-, STOPPPPP IT! YOU GOT ME!!!
COOCHIE COOCHIE COOCHIE COOCHIE COOCHIE COOCHIE COOCHIE COOCHIE!
WAH, HAHAHAH, HAHAHA-HAHA-HAHA...

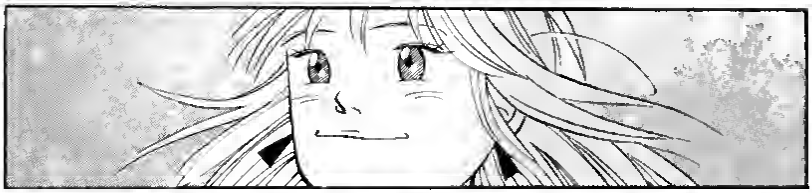
IT'S OVER, IT'S OVER!! I TOOK CARE OF IT, NO SWEAT!!

DONE WITH YOUR JOB AL-READY !?

DAM-MIT...

NOW IT'S 124 TO 124 EVEN STEVEN !!!

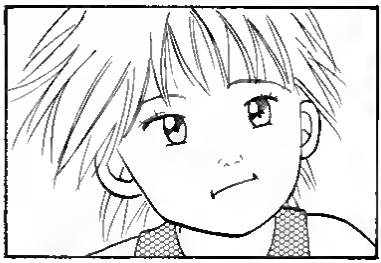
YES !!! ♡

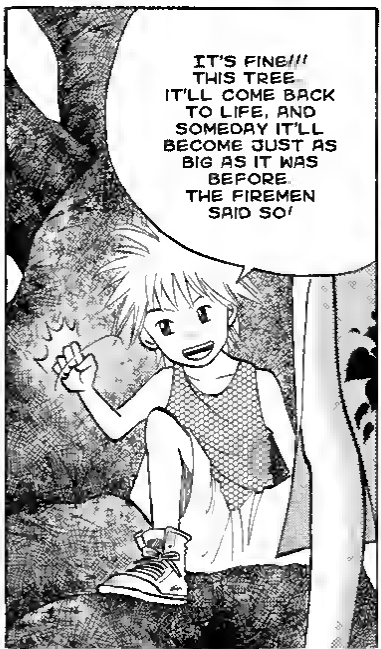


IT'S LIKE A WHOLE OTHER PLACE NOW.

HMMM.

LOOKS LIKE THIS PLACE HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF, TOO!




IT'S FINE!!! THIS TREE IT'LL COME BACK TO LIFE, AND SOMEDAY IT'LL BECOME JUST AS BIG AS IT WAS BEFORE. THE FIREMEN SAID SO!

YOUR TREE HAS BURNED DOWN NOW YOU CAN'T GO UP AND DOWN AS FREELY AS YOU'D LIKE ANYMORE
AHHHH... OH.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU CAN'T WAIT AROUND FOR THAT.

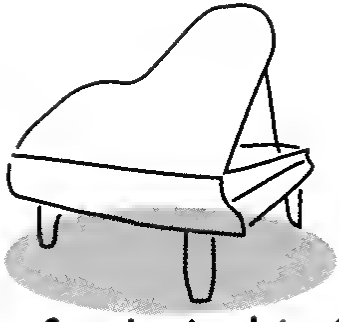
フフン

IF I WAIT, I'LL BE ABLE TO CLIMB THE TREE AGAIN.

KA!!!! THIS IS THE MOST I CAN DO FOR YOU

AND 124 TO 124 IS A GOOD SCORE TO END IT AT...

MR. AJINO WILL TAKE YOU AWAY FROM HERE!
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
KAI, YOU'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST"
AND GO PLAY THE PIANO!!!
KAI!!! LEAVE THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST"
ピアノの寿命 END



The Perfect World of KAI

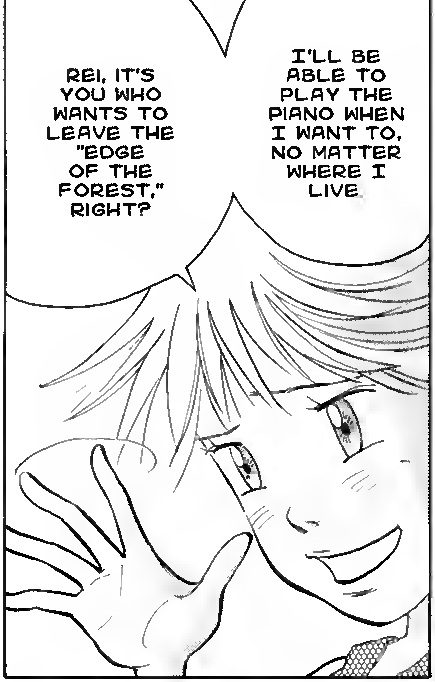
Chapter 51 Will of the Piano

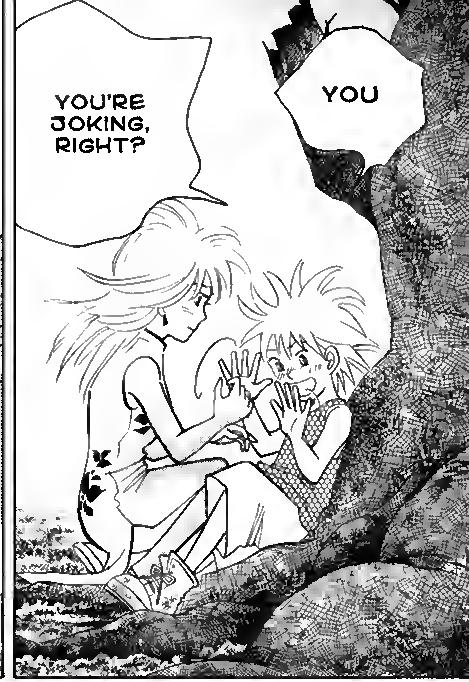
AND GO PLAY THE PIANO!!!

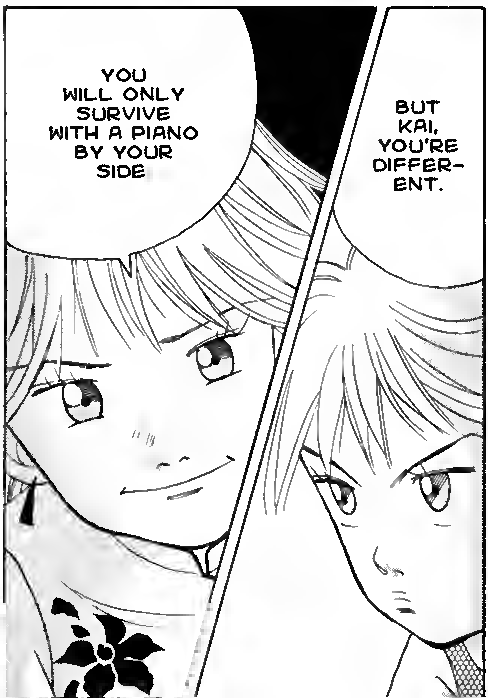
KAI!!! LEAVE THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST"

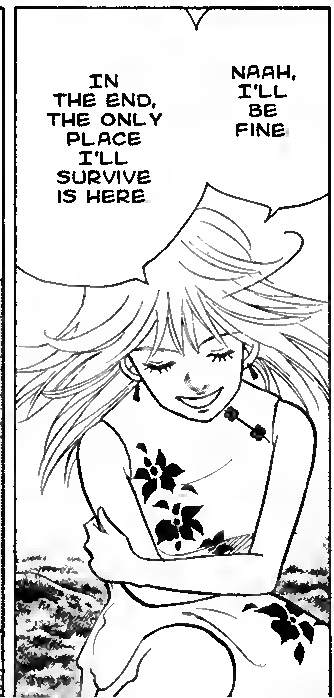
LEAVE THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST"

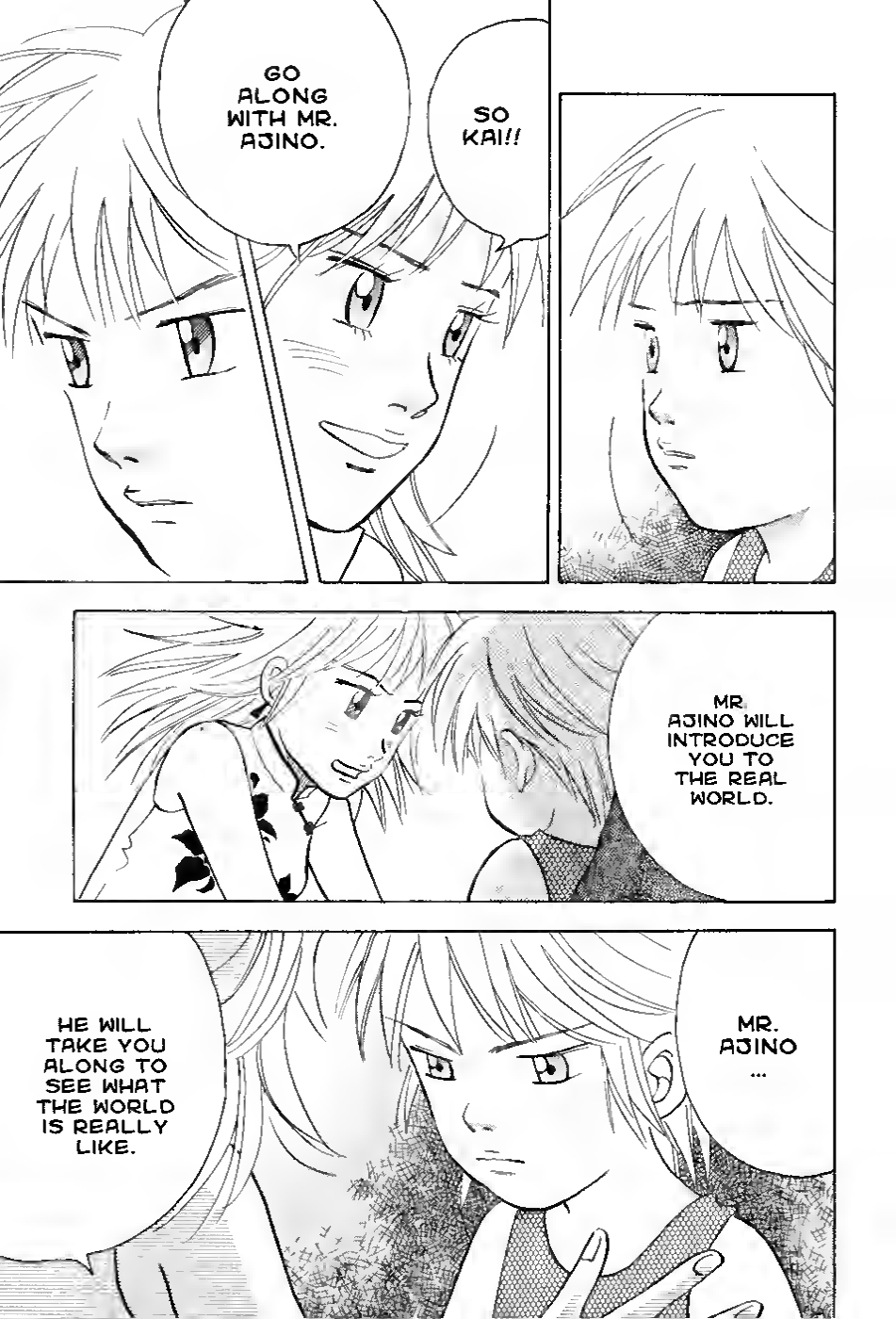
AND BE INDEPEN-DENT...


REI, IT'S YOU WHO WANTS TO LEAVE THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST," RIGHT?
I'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO WHEN I WANT TO, NO MATTER WHERE I LIVE


YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?
YOU


YOU WILL ONLY SURVIVE WITH A PIANO BY YOUR SIDE
BUT KAI, YOU'RE DIFFER-ENT.

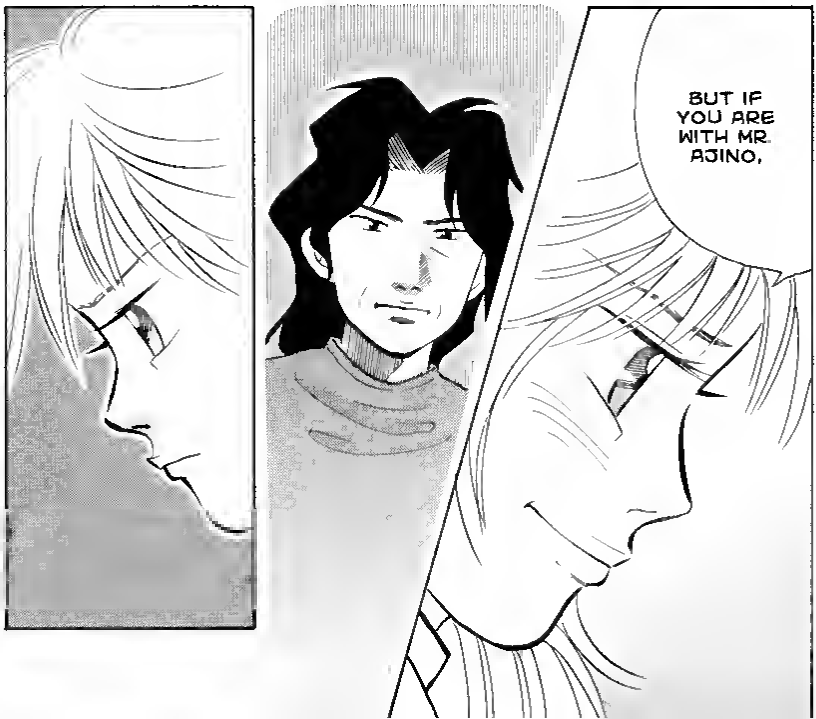

IN THE END, THE ONLY PLACE I'LL SURVIVE IS HERE
NAAH, I'LL BE FINE


GO ALONG WITH MR. AJINO.
SO KAI!!
MR. AJINO WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE REAL WORLD.
HE WILL TAKE YOU ALONG TO SEE WHAT THE WORLD IS REALLY LIKE.
MR. AJINO ...

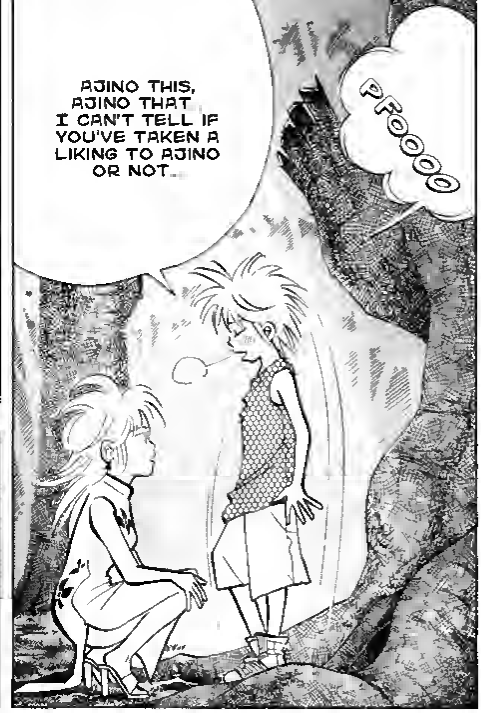
THESE PEOPLE FROM THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST" WILL ALWAYS TAG ALONG AND KEEP YOU FROM FINDING TRUE FREEDOM

ANO, IF YOU STAY IN JAPAN,

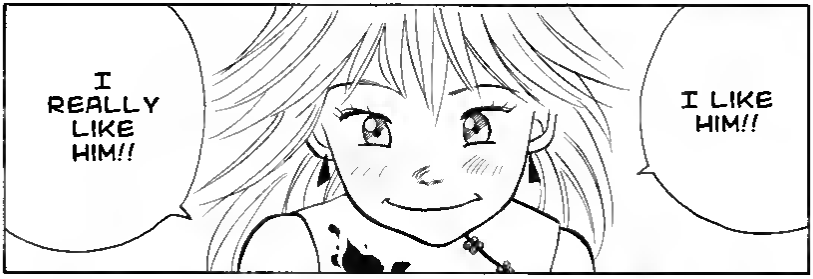
IF YOU STAY HERE, YOU WON'T BE FREE



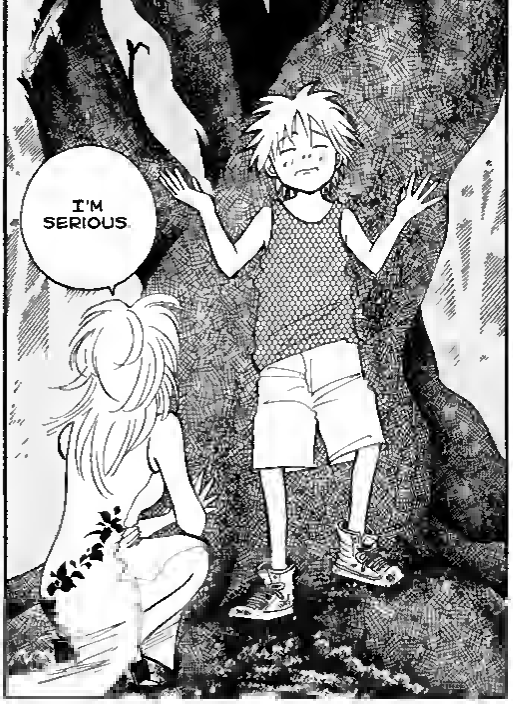
YOU DON'T LIKE HIM, KAI?

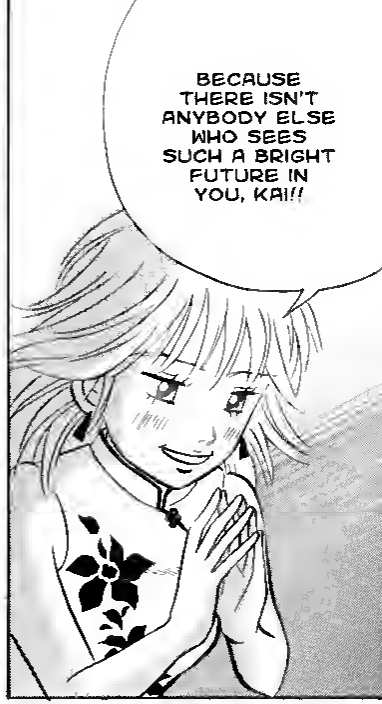

AJINO THIS, AJINO THAT I CAN'T TELL IF YOU'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO AJINO OR NOT...
PFOOOO

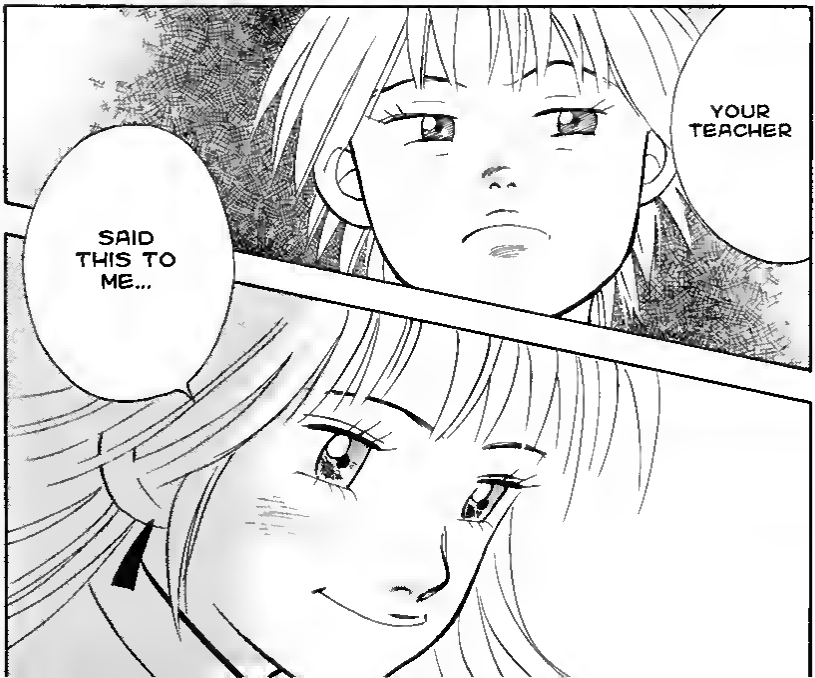
LIKE HIM OR NOT,
THAT'S NOT IMPOR-TANT.


I REALLY LIKE HIM!!
I LIKE HIM!!

I MEAN REI, DON'T YOU HATE GUYS!? AND AJINO IS A GUY!!
WHY? WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT HIM?


I'M SERIOUS.


BECAUSE THERE ISN'T ANYBODY ELSE WHO SEES SUCH A BRIGHT FUTURE IN YOU, KAI!!

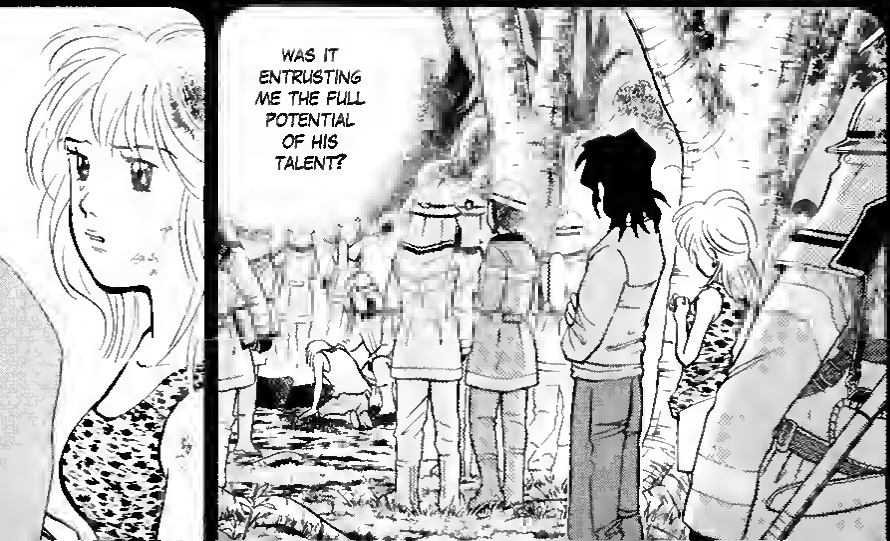

YOUR TEACHER
SAID THIS TO ME...

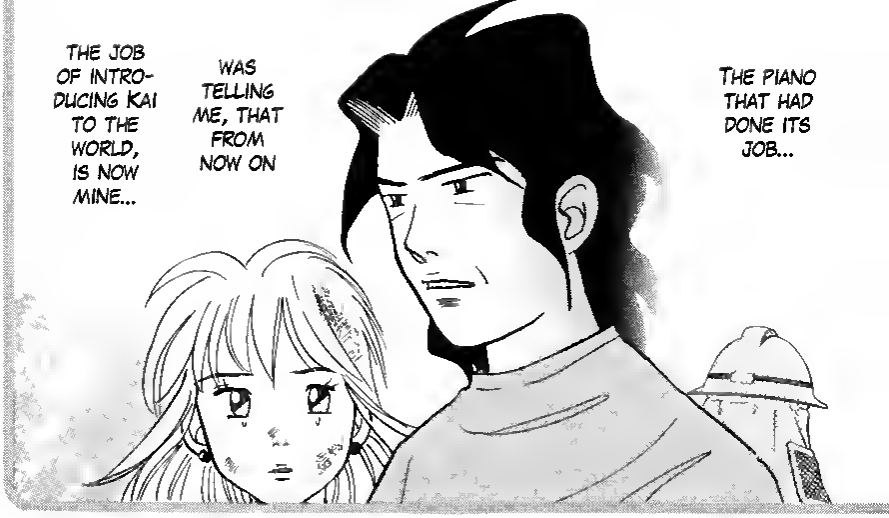
WHEN THAT LIGHTNING STRUCK,
NEAR THE LESSON ROOM...
I NOTICED KAI
JUST A COINCI-DENCE, PERHAPS...

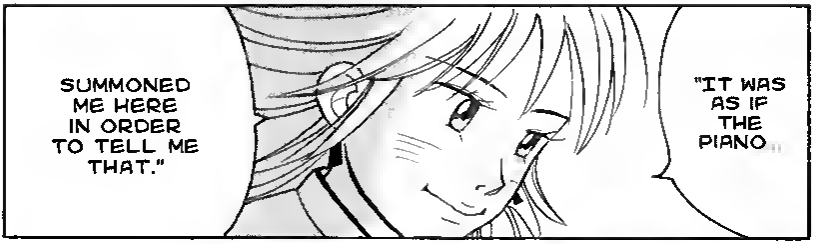
THEN... I WAS WITNESS TO THE FINAL MOMENTS OF THE PIANO THAT I ONCE ABANOONEO ...
BUT...

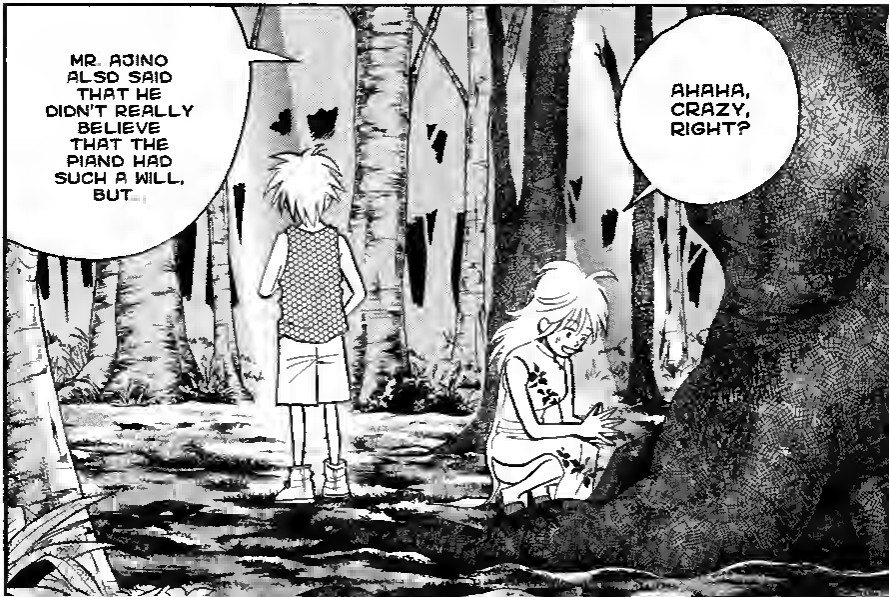
THE PIANO THAT I HAD CAST AWAY WAS SLOWLY... SECRETLY... OVER TIME... NURTURING KAI'S TALENT...
BUT WAS IT COINCI-DENCE!?

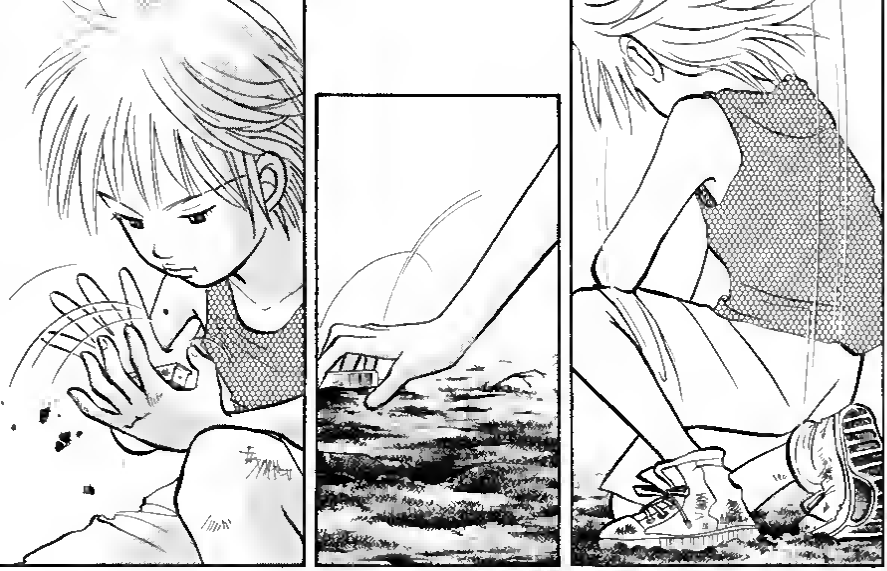
AND IN ITS FINAL MOMENTS, WHEN ITS LIFE HAD RUN OUT,

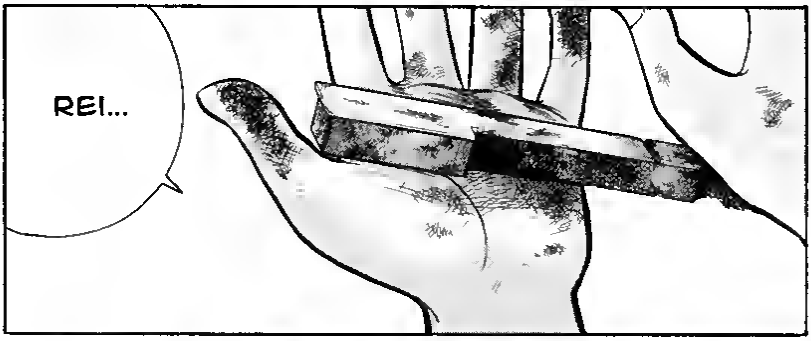

WAS IT ENTRUSTING ME THE FULL POTENTIAL OF HIS TALENT?

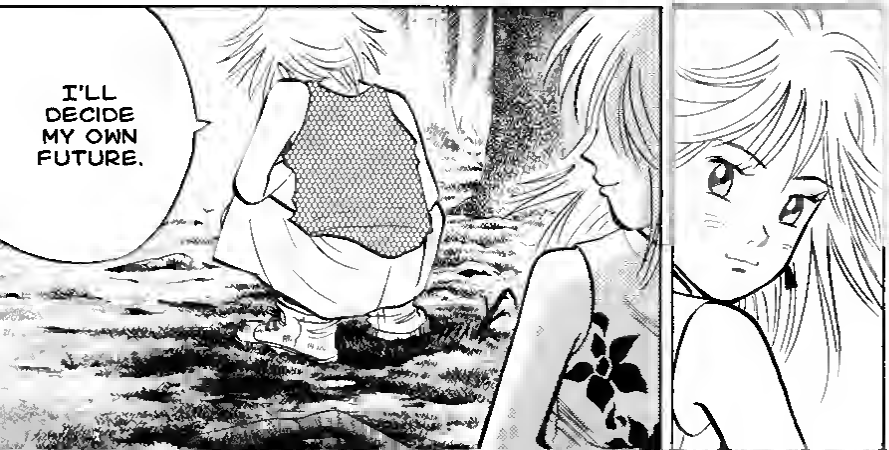

THE JOB OF INTRO-DUCING KAI TO THE WORLD, IS NOW MINE...
WAS TELLING ME, THAT FROM NOW ON
THE PIANO THAT HAD DONE ITS JOB...


SUMMONED ME HERE IN ORDER TO TELL ME THAT."
"IT WAS AS IF THE PIANO...


MR. AJINO ALSO SAID THAT HE DIDN'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE PIANO HAD SUCH A WILL, BUT...
AHAHA, CRAZY, RIGHT?




REI...


I'LL DECIDE MY OWN FUTURE.

AND IT SURE WOULDN'T BE UP TO MR. AJINO.

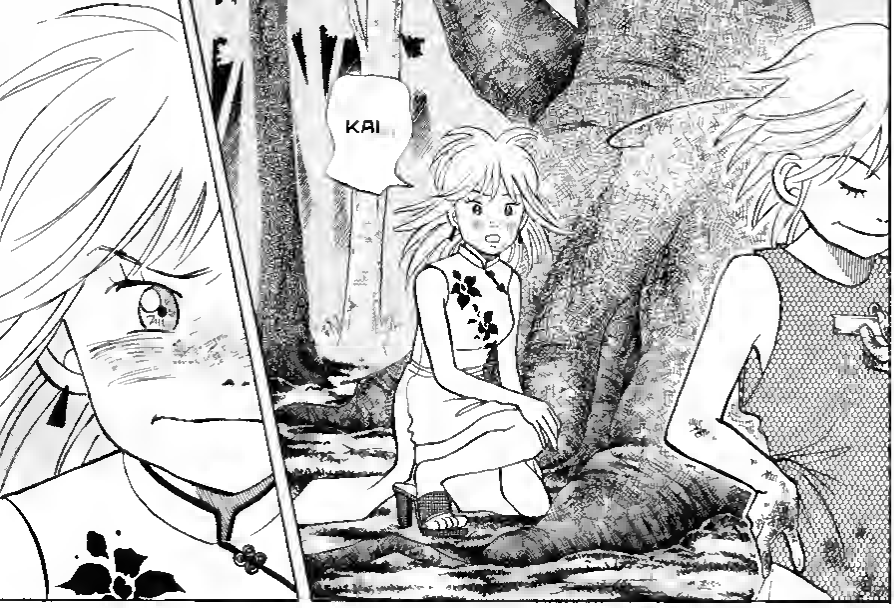
MY FUTURE ISN'T UP TO YOU; NOR IS IT UP TO THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST;"

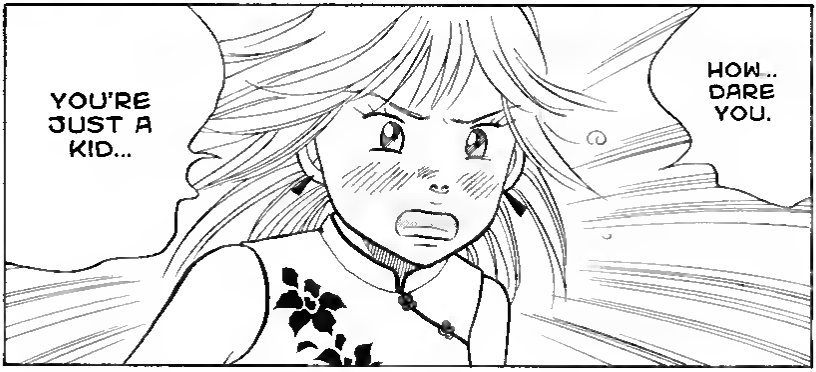
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT, AND THEN I'LL DECIDE!

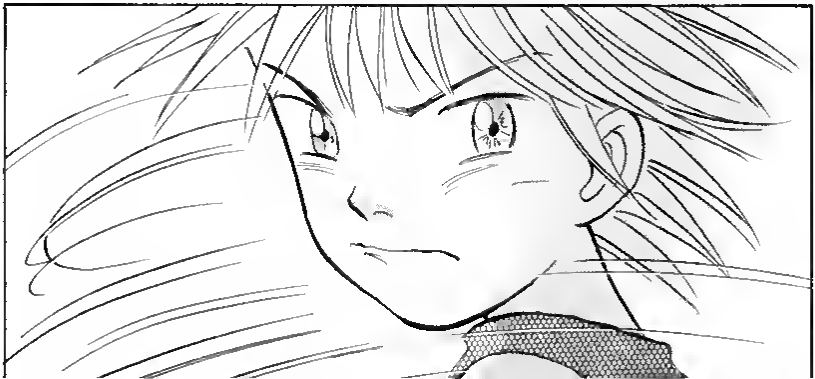
I WON'T BE ABAN-DONING YOU HERE ALL BY YOURSELF

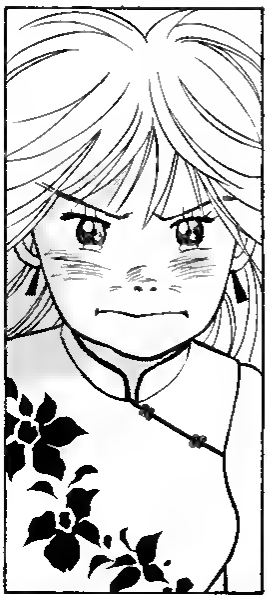
DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.

YOU


KAI


YOU'RE JUST A KID...
HOW.. DARE YOU.



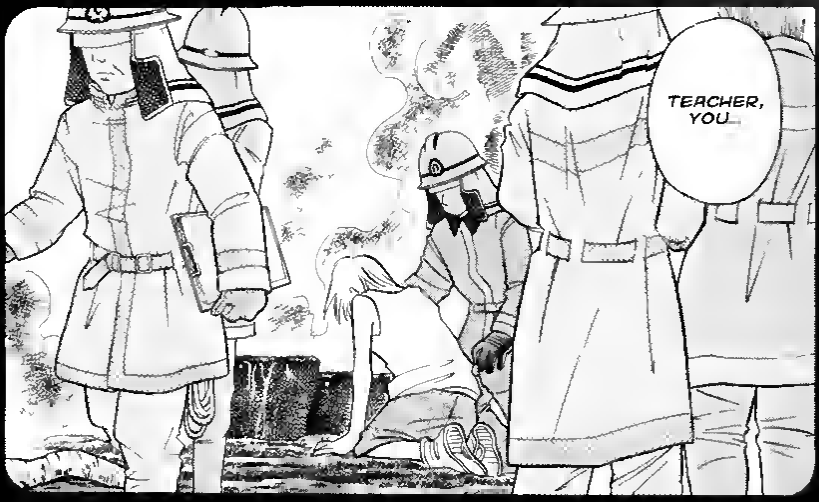


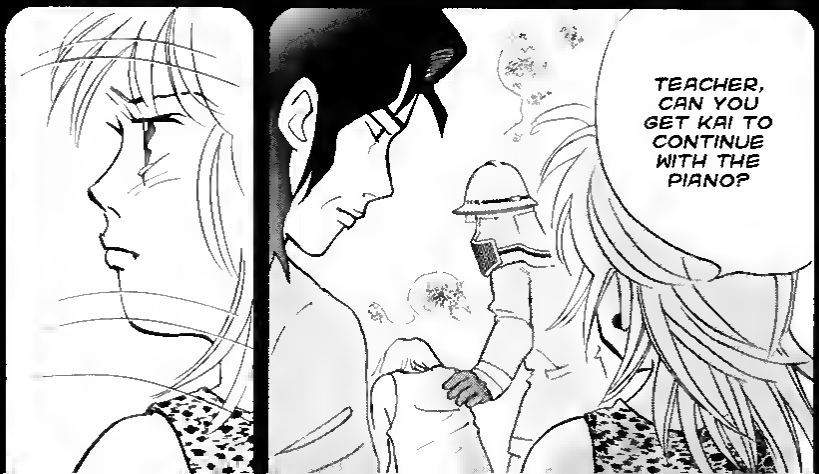
DON'T SAY "THIS IS THE MOST I CAN DO FOR YOU!!"
THEN OON'T TELL A KID TO GET OUT OF HERE!

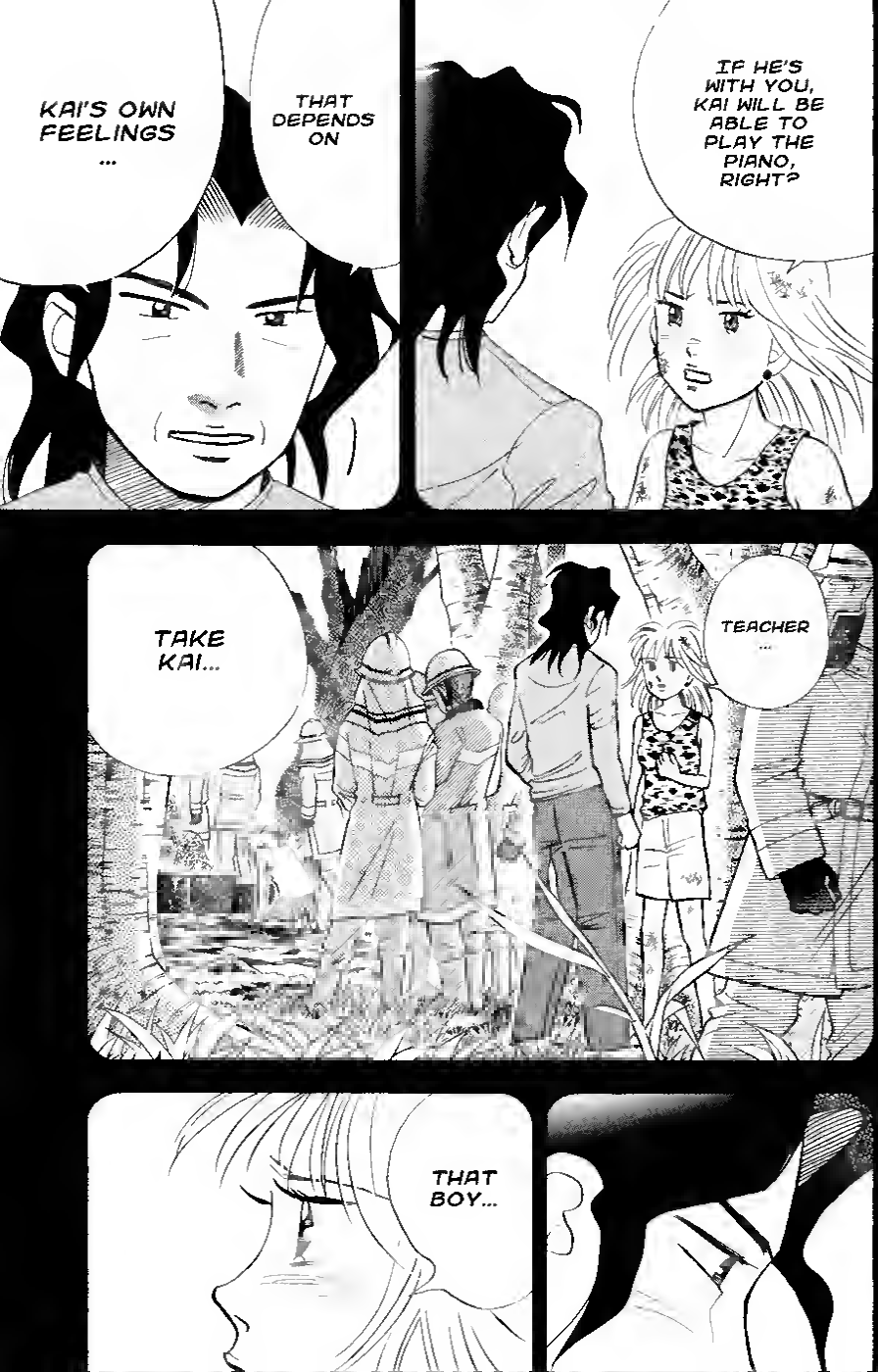
DON'T SAY THAT TO ME AGAIN !!!

TEACHER
...

KAI...
HELP...


TEACHER, YOU...


TEACHER, CAN YOU GET KAI TO CONTINUE WITH THE PIANO?


KAI'S OWN FEELINGS ...
THAT DEPENDS ON
IF HE'S WITH YOU, KAI WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO, RIGHT?
TAKE KAI...
TEACHER ...
THAT BOY...

HAVE YOU.
BUT HE DOES
THAT BOY HAS NOTHING THAT'S KEEPING HIM HERE!!
- WITHOUT THE PIANO OF THE FOREST -
HE HAS YOU.

JUST LIKE I CAN'T PULL YOU
AWAY FROM HIM...

AWAY FROM YOU...
I CAN'T SNATCH HIM

UNTIL WE THINK OF A WAY TO LET HIM FLY INTO THE WORLD OF MUSIC ON HIS OWN...
SO...
?
PLEASE DON'T BELITTLE US...
TEACHER
HE HAS BEEN FIGHTING BY MY SIDE THE WHOLE TIME.
EVER SINCE KAI WAS BORN.
WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FIGHT-ING

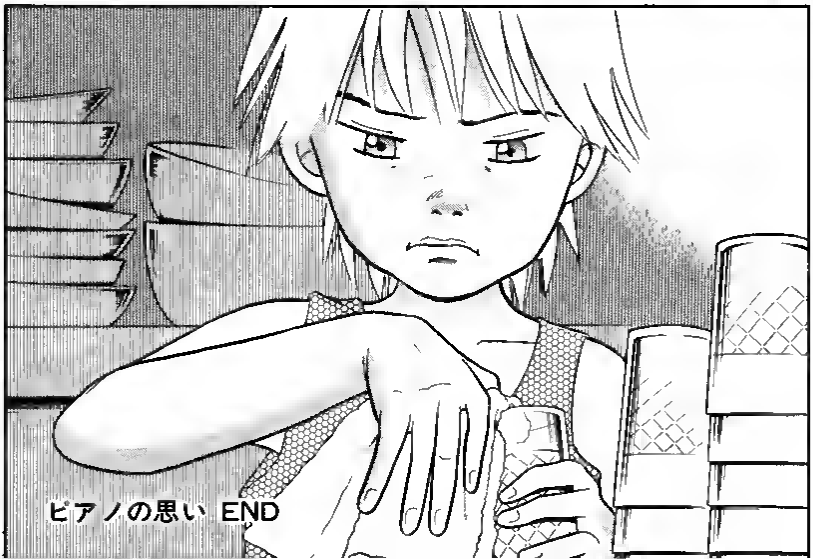
IF WE HADN'T, WE WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED TILL TODAY.

KAI AND I HAVE BEEN PARTNERS IN BATTLE !!

WE'RE NOT GOING TO FALL APART WHEN WE ARE OUT ON OUR OWN.

AND THE PIANO...
THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST", REI AND KAI..
...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO!?
ICHINOSE!
THERE IS NO WAY TO MEET ALL OF THEIR WANTS...

WHAT WILL YOU DO!?



Chapter 52 Ben

THIS POSH, FANCY DRESSED GUY.

OR THIS CHEER-FUL,

FLASHY GUY.

THAT FAT GUY OR

LOOK!!

ALL OF THEM GUYS ARE "BOSSES."

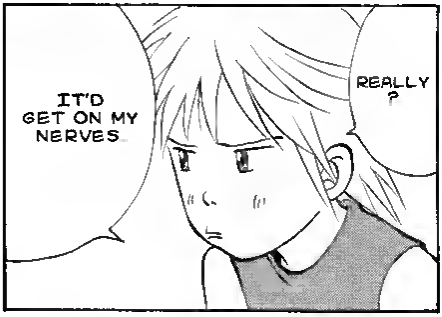
BOSS-ES...?

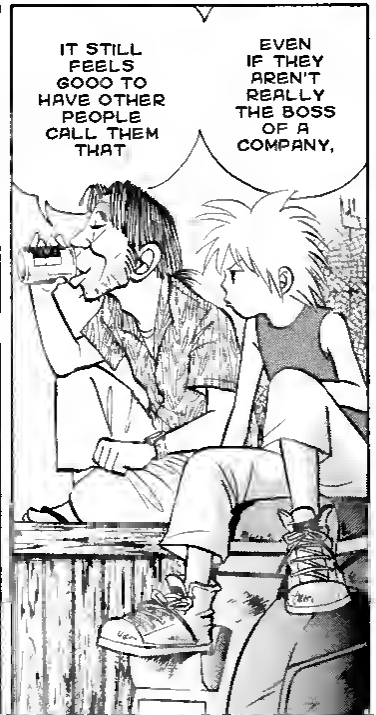
YO, BOSS.

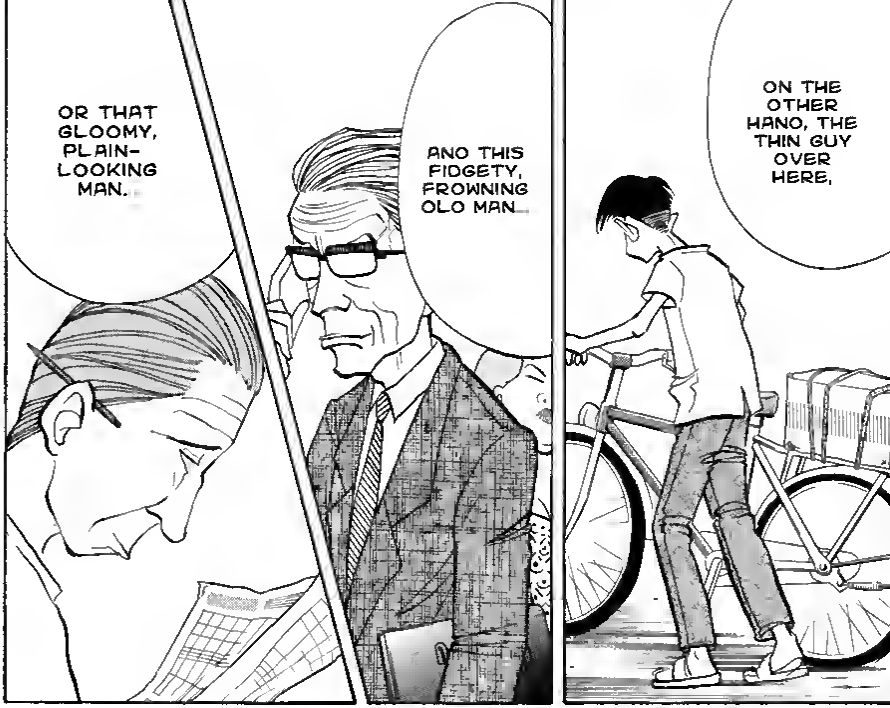
HOW'S THE BUSINESS GOING, BOSS

GOOD WORK TODAY, BOSS!

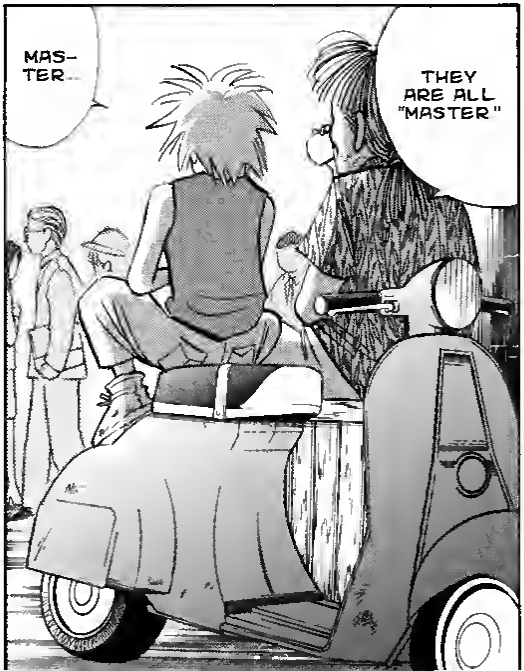
THAT'S RIGHT, BOSS!

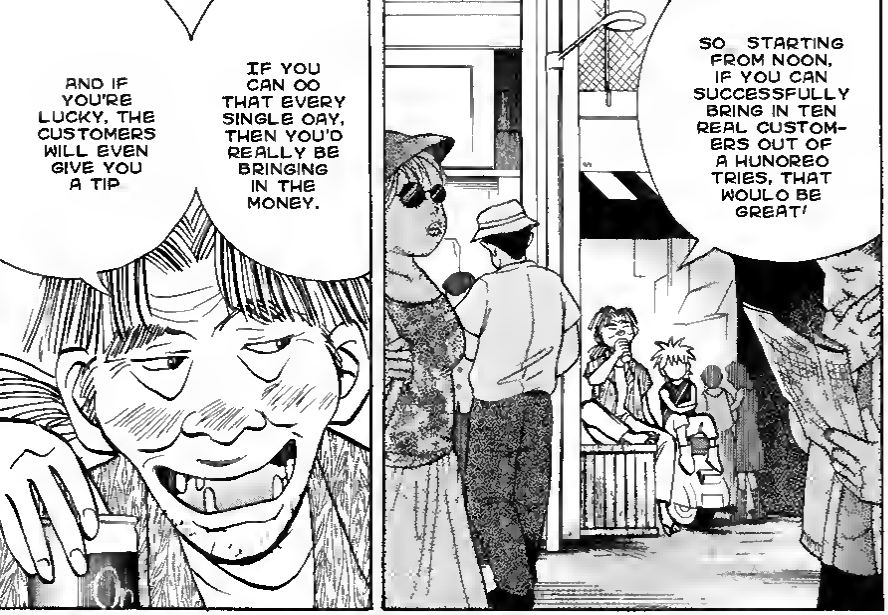


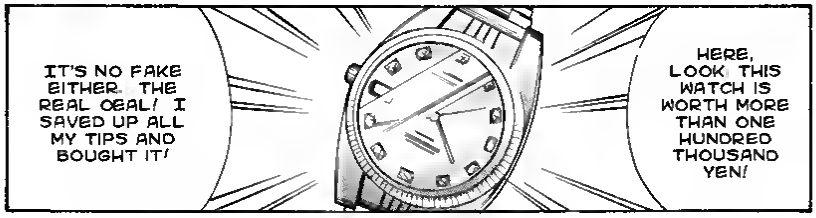



OR THAT GLOOMY, PLAIN-LOOKING MAN...
AND THIS FIDGETY, FROWNING OLD MAN...
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE THIN GUY OVER HERE,

IT'S SIMPLE THOSE ARE THE TWO WAYS OF ADDRESSING CUSTOMERS.
THAT'S RIGHT, MASTER.


MAS-TER...
THEY ARE ALL "MASTER"


AND IF YOU'RE LUCKY, THE CUSTOMERS WILL EVEN GIVE YOU A TIP.
IF YOU CAN DO THAT EVERY SINGLE DAY, THEN YOU'D REALLY BE BRINGING IN THE MONEY.
SO... STARTING FROM NOON, IF YOU CAN SUCCESSFULLY BRING IN TEN REAL CUSTOMERS OUT OF A HUNDRED TRIES, THAT WOULD BE GREAT!


IT'S NO FAKE EITHER... THE REAL DEAL! I SAVED UP ALL MY TIPS AND BOUGHT IT!
HERE, LOOK! THIS WATCH IS WORTH MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN!

HUH?
OLD MAN PON DIO YOU TRY BITING INTO THE WATCH BEFORE BUYING IT?
HYA-HYA-HYA-HYA!

A KIND OLD MAN WHO TOOK ORPHAN ARISA IN.

OLD MAN PON, IS THE OLDEST AMONG THE BROTHEL PIMPS...

IF YOU SANK YOUR TEETH INTO IT, NO ONE WOULD WANT IT ANYMORE AND IT'LL GAIN YOU NOTHIN'!!!

AWWW, YOU CRAZY KID!!!

ALREADY DRUNK BY LUNCH TIME!! LIVIN' THE LIFE!!

AHAHA, OLD MAN PON!!!

Ahahaha...

TEN-MARU !!

AH! BEN !!

!

YOU BET!! IT'LL BE A ROAD TRIP!

GOING TO THE CITY?

IF YOU'RE FREE, HOW ABOUT COMING ALONG WITH ME!!

YO! KAI!!!

THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THERE'S SOME TIPS IN IT!!!

BEN'S A-DRIVER.

AHAHAHA, IT'S BETTER THAN SITTING HERE LISTENING TO YOUR LECTURES !!!

DON'T TAKE KAI ALONG WHEN YOU DO THAT !!!

TRANSPORTING DANGEROUS STUFF AGAIN—!?

DON'T MIND ALL THE MESS...

JUST TOSS IT ASIDE.

ガサ ガサ

BEN USED TO BE A HANDYMAN (YAKUZA ERRAND BOY), BUT NOW HE IS LICENSED TO DRIVE VEHICLES LIKE BIG TRUCKS, TRAILERS, AND CRANE TRUCKS - HE'S ALSO THE PERSON I LOOK UP TO THE MOST.

ガサ

!

第56回全日本学生ピアノコンクール

満点快挙!!

[56th National Student Piano Concours!!! Perfect Score Performance!!]

HUH?

ガサ

UH...

IT'S AMAMIYA !!!
全国大会出場を決め
雨宮修平くん(小学
AMAMIYA IS THE DISTRICT CHAMPION !!

WHAT'S UP? SOMEONE YOU KNOW DO SOME-THING GOOO?

HM?

YOU REALLY DID IT!

WOW, AMA-MIYA!

ON TOP OF THAT, HE GOT THE FIRST EVER PERFECT SCORE!!

YEAH! MY FRIENO WON A SPOT IN THE NATIONWIOE COMPETITION AT THE PIANO CONCOURS!!

TAKAKO.

AH...

丸山誉子さん

HE WANTS TO BECOME A PIANIST !!

ISN'T THAT GREAT !?

WITH SUCH CREATIVITY AND POWER THAT MAKES US QUESTION THE BASIS FOR JUDGING THE COMPETITION..."

"MARU-YAMA TAKAKO, 6TH GRADE,

SHE GOT THE "JUDGES' SPECIAL RECOGNI-TION AWARD!!"

WOOOOW, NICE!!

YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, BATHROOM PRINCESS.

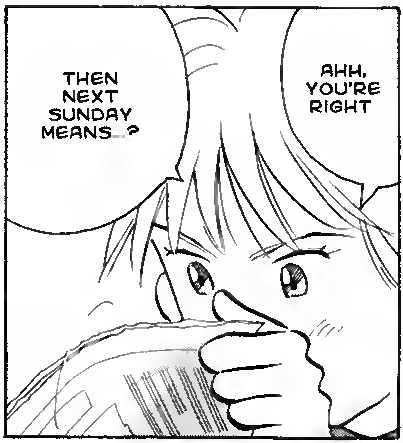
HAHA!

AHHH, SO IT'S IN TOKYO

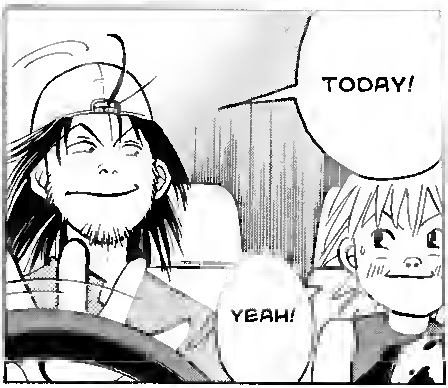
IS NEXT SUNDAY IN TOKYO..

THE NATIONAL COMPETITION TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER ONE PIANO PLAYER IN JAPAN AMONG STUDENTS

HUUUH, WHAT'S THIS, WHAT'S THIS

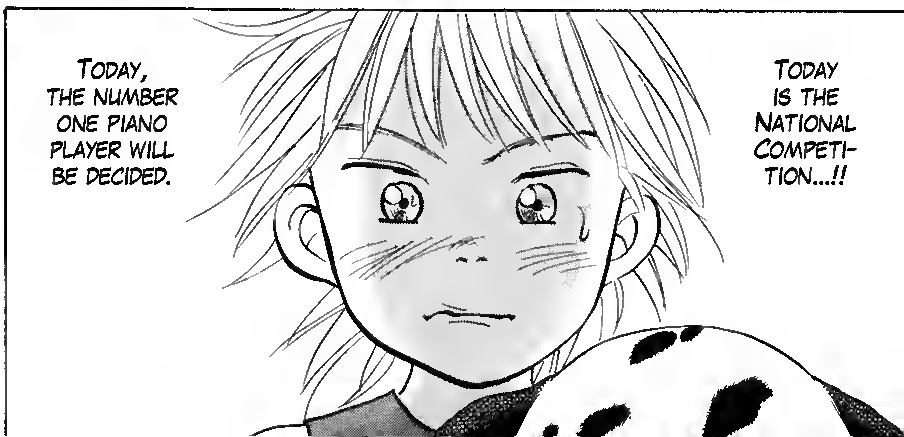

THEN NEXT SUNDAY MEANS...?
AHH, YOU'RE RIGHT

THAT'S NOT TODAY'S NEWS-PAPER, KAI!
NEXT SUNDAY ?


TODAY!
YEAH!

...

...

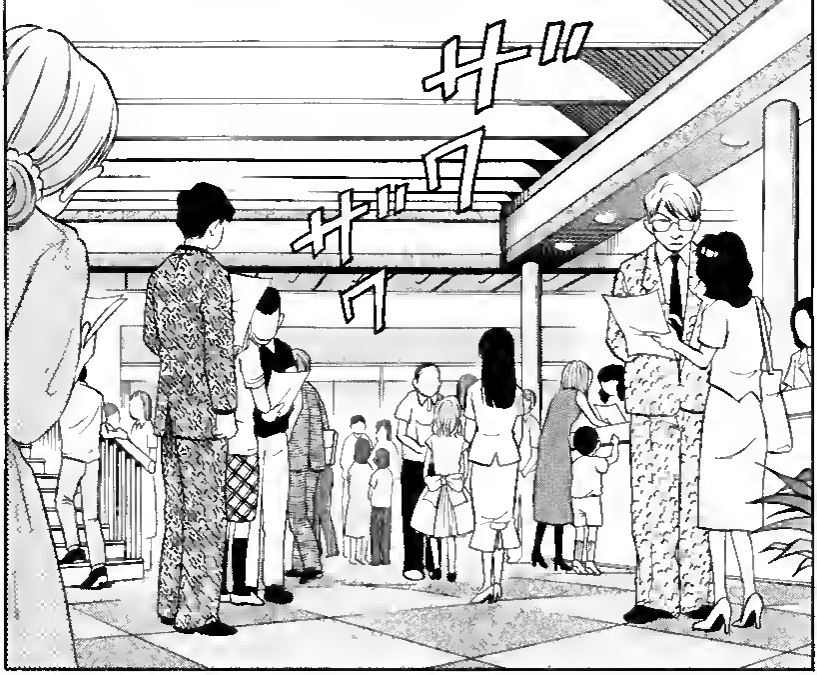

TODAY, THE NUMBER ONE PIANO PLAYER WILL BE DECIDED.
TODAY IS THE NATIONAL COMPETI-TION...!!

AMAMIYA...

全日本学生ピアノコンクール

全国大会

[Japanese Nationwide Student Piano Concours] [National Competition]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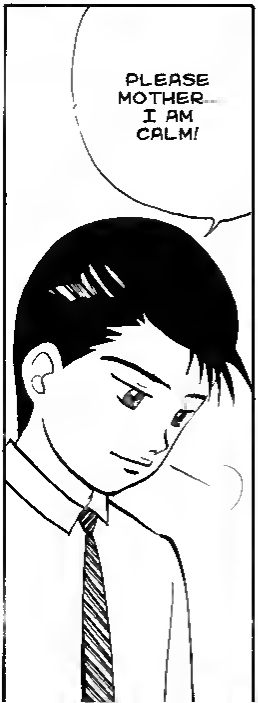

PLEASE MOTHER... I AM CALM!

CALM DOWN...
JUST PLAY IT LIKE YOU USUALLY DO...

ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ
SYUHEI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I HAVE THOROUGHLY PRACTICED MY LESSONS AGAIN AND AGAIN!

IN ORDER TO BE CALM,

SO I CAN PLAY IT ENTIRELY WITHOUT GETTING ANY BUTTER-FLIES.

"THE JAPANESE NATIONWIDE STUDENT PIANO CONCOURS", WILL NOW COMMENCE!

THE 56TH EDITION OF THE NATIONAL COMPETITION,

HEY... THE PERFOR-MANCES OF THE NATIONAL COMPETITION
ARE SCHEDULED TO BE BROAD-CASTEO ON CHANNEL BS3 AT 9 P.M. THE SAME DAY...

WOW, YOU'RE GONNA BE ON TV! YOU'RE LIKE A STAR, AMAMIYA !!

T-TV!?

NO PROBLEM! LEAVE IT TO ME!

HEY, BEN, WILL I BE ABLE TO GET BACK HOME BY 9 P.M.?

WHEN THAT LIGHTNING BOLT TOOK THE "PIANO OF THE FOREST" AWAY... I HEARD YOU CRIED YOUR EYES OUT.

SPEAKING OF THE PIANO, KAI...

IF I WAS YOUR DAD, I'D KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO YOU!

AHAHAHAHA, YOU'RE ONE CRAZY KID! SERIOUSLY, WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING!?

YEAH

BEN IS THE ONLY MAN IN THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST" THAT ISN'T RUMORED TO BE MY FATHER.

Taco, taco, what an awful and strange dish being served...

...

15 YEAR OLD REI AND 10 YEAR OLD BEN... I DON'T WANT TO IMAGINE IT!

...

BUT IF HE REALLY WERE MY FATHER... SINCE BEN IS NOW 20, HE WOULD HAVE CONCEIVED ME AT THE AGE OF 10.

WAAH
キイ
KREEEEE
shake shake
10 YEARS OLD - ISN'T THAT MY AGE NOW?
OH MAN, YOU'RE KIDDING ME
S-SORRY.
THEY MADE IT A PEDESTRIAN MALL... ALL THE WAY UP
THEY'VE BLOCKED OFF THE STREET
歩行者天国
PM1:00~PM5:00

I'LL HAVE TO FIND A DIFFERENT ROUTE...

WELL THIS IS A BUMMER... OH RIGHT, TODAY IS SUNDAY.

BUT A PIANO!
THERE'S A PIANO! A PIANO, MAN! MAYBE FOR SOME KIND OF SHOW
JUST TRUST ME!! I GUARANTEE YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE THIS!
!
IF WE GET DISTRACTED AND WASTE TIME, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET HOME BY 9
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO SEE SOME PIANO!
BELIEVE ME, YOU WILL WANT TO SEE THIS!!
歩行者天国

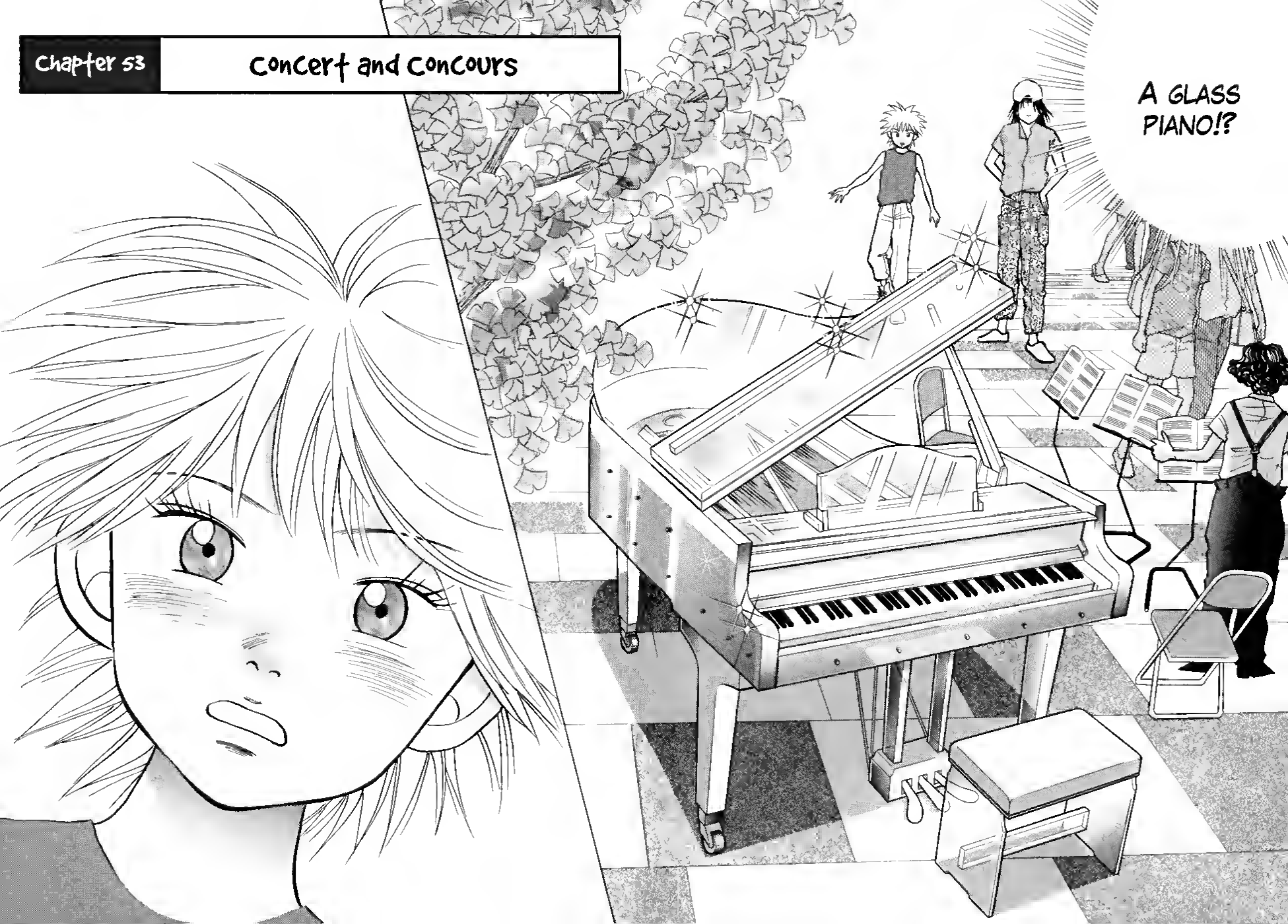
AHH...
G–
G...

A GLASS PIANO !?
ベンちゃん END

G-
A...

Chapter 53

Concert and Concours



THE 56TH EDITION OF THE NATIONAL COMPETITION,

"THE JAPANESE NATIONWIDE STUDENT PIANO CONCOURS" WILL NOW COMMENCE!

小学生ピアノコンクール

全国大会

FIRST, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THE JUDGES FOR THE "ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION"

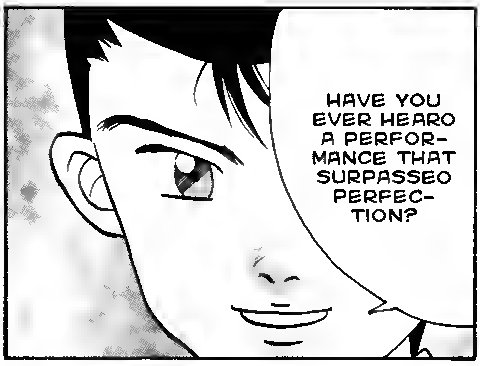
YOU'RE THE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE WHO MANAGED A PERFECT SCORE, RIGHT!?
HEY YOU.
PLAYING IT PERFECTLY YOU'D HAVE TO BE A ROBOT!
HOW DID YOU DO IT?
THEY PRINTED IT ALL OVER THE NEWSPAPERS
IT'S NOT THAT HARD TO DO.
YOU JUST PLAY IT LIKE THE MUSICAL SCORE IS WRITTEN.
JUST HEARING YOU TALK ABOUT IT IS SO AWESOME!

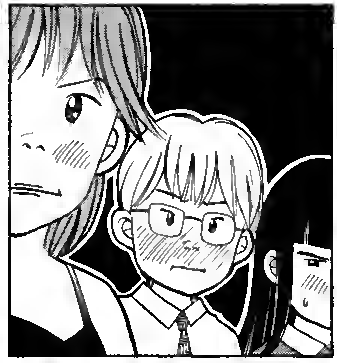
THAT'S FOR A CONCOURS WITH JUDGES WATCHING
BUT...
MY TEACHER TOLD ME.
"WHEN YOU ARE PLAYING A CONCERT FOR GUESTS, YOU SHOULDN'T PLAY THAT WAY,"
I AGREE.
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO AIM FOR THAT."

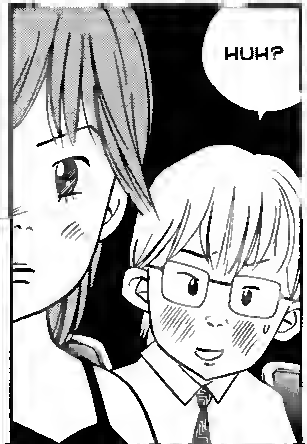
AND WE WILL FINALLY GET OUR CHANCE TO PERFORM, AIMING TO BECOME NUMBER ONE IN JAPAN...

BUT HERE WE ARE AT A CONCOURS.

WHAT IS REALLY HARD IS PLAYING THE PIANO BETTER THAN PERFECT.







I WANT THEM TO HEAR YOUR PIANO...

AND SEE THE REACTIONS ON THEIR FACES...

THE CENTRAL REGION SOUTH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE...

NUMBER ONE...

すう inhale

はあ exhale

AMAMIYA SYUHEI.

KAI...
TODAY I,
WILL BECOME JAPAN'S NUMBER ONE.
パチ

DO-DOES THIS PIANO PLAY?

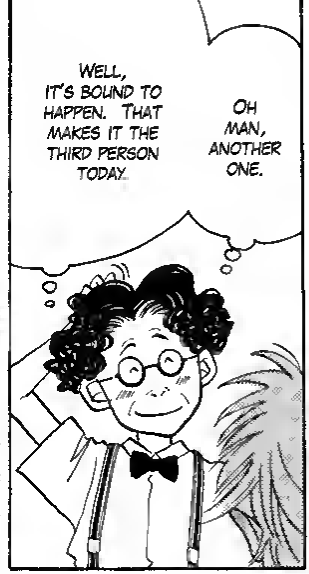
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HEAR A PER-FOR-MANCE ON IT, IN A BIT

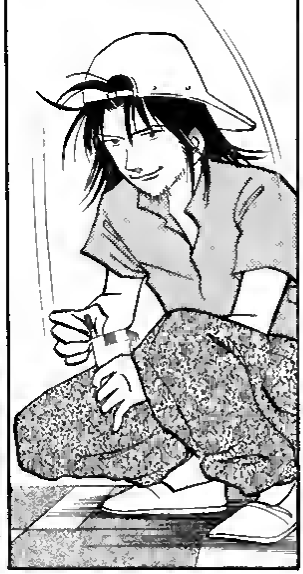
YEAH, IT PLAYS.

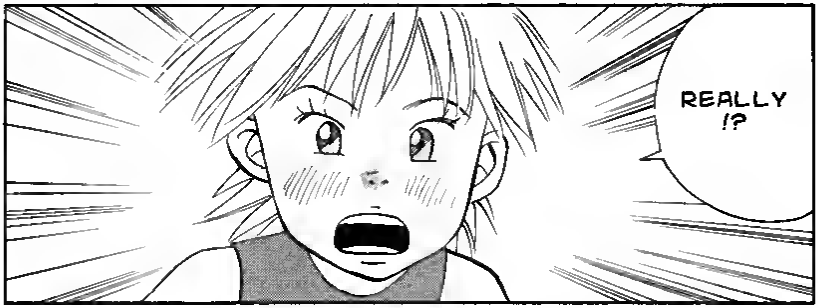
IS THIS MADE OUT OF GLASS?
AH, THAT'S ACRYLIC RESIN.
IT'S STRONGER AND LIGHTER THAN GLASS.
SO IT PLAYS.
WOOW...
WOW! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
HAHA, THE PIANO IS FROM THAT STORE OVER THERE.
FROM TIME TO TIME WE PERFORM OUT HERE AS A PROMOTIONIAL STUNT.

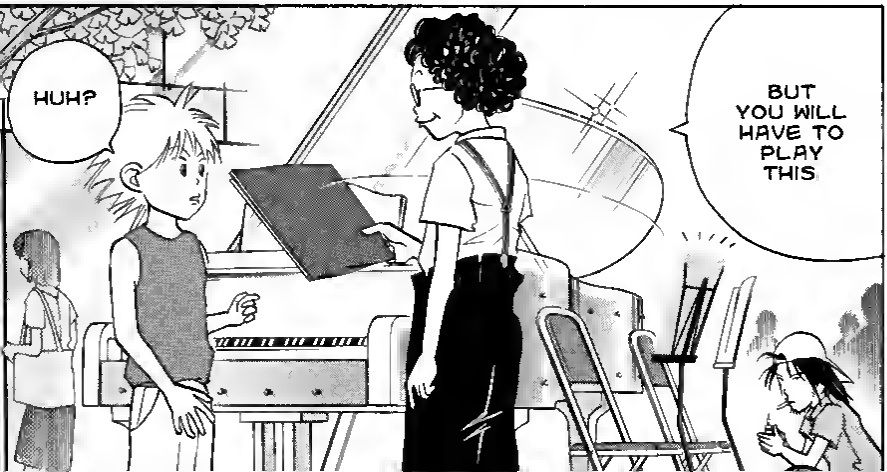
IT'S PRETTY
YEAH
ISN'T IT PRETTY?
IS IT A BOY OR A GIRL...?
THIS KID IS ALSO PRETTY...
I PLAY THE PIANO A BIT?
MAY...

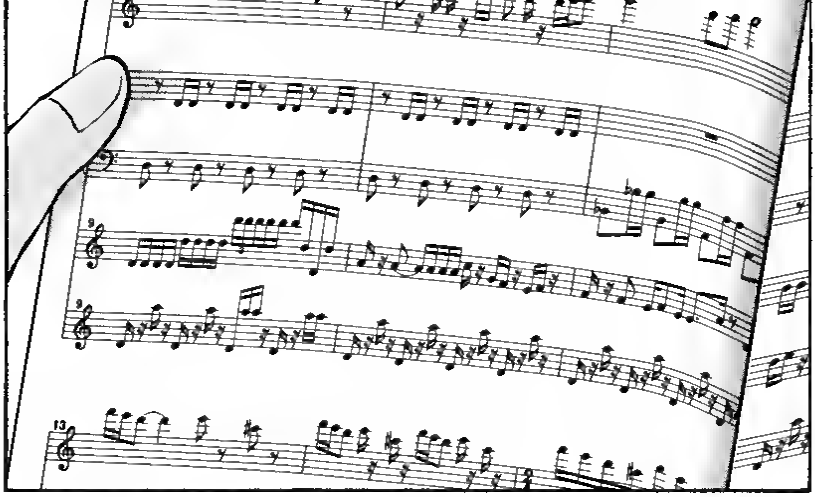
SURE!
BUT SCARING THEM OFF IS EASY.


WELL, IT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN. THAT MAKES IT THE THIRD PERSON TODAY.
OH MAN, ANOTHER ONE.




REALLY !?


HUH?
BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO PLAY THIS



SHE'S DOING IT AGAIN
HEY LOOK.

BUT IF I DON'T PULL THIS KIND OF A TRICK, PEOPLE WOULD LINE UP OUT OF CURIOSITY, BEGGING "ME, TOO" "ME, TOO" ONE AFTER ANOTHER WITHOUT END..
I- I'M SORRY.

AHAHAHA, EVEN YOUR REGULAR ARRANGE-MENTS ARE TRICKY ENOUGH...
THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY DO IT...
ASKING AMATEURS TO READ THAT PIECE...
AWWW, THAT'S SO UNFAIR...
IT'S ON THE LOW SIDE, BUT YOU'RE GETTING PAID GOOD MONEY FOR IT...
AHA-HAHA, FORGET ABOUT IT!
I'M NOT A PIANO SPECIAL-IST TO BEGIN WITH...
AMATEURS!? YOU COULD EVEN GET PIANO MASTERS WITH 40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE TO STUMBLE OVER THAT ONE!
IF YOU EVER FIND SOMEONE WHO PLAYS BETTER THAN ME, DEFINITELY RECRUIT HIM...
BUT...

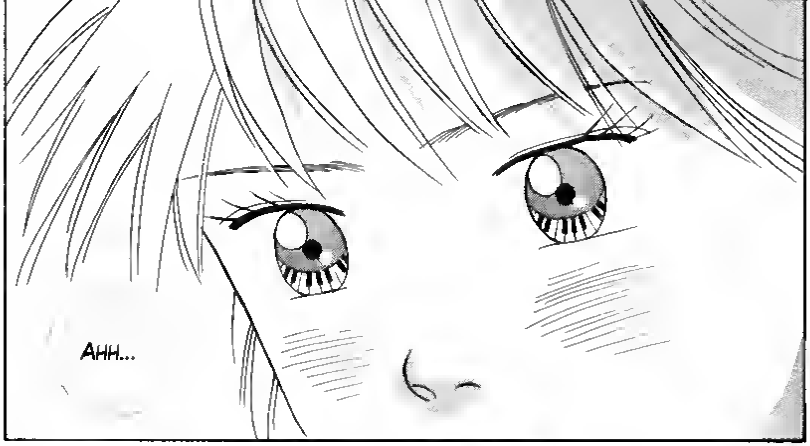
コンクールとコンサート END

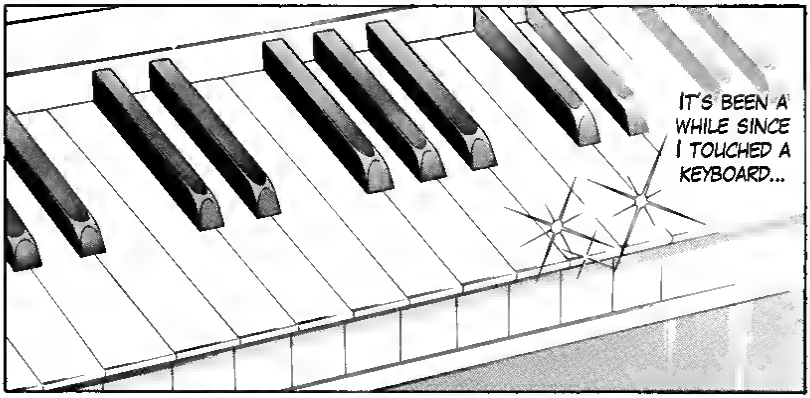
"BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO PLAY THIS."
"SURE!"
"MAY... I PLAY THE PIANO A BIT?"
THE MUSICAL SCORE THAT SHE HANDED OVER...

THIS PIECE,
HE CAN'T PLAY IT..
IS ABSO-LUTELY...
AMAZING.

!!
カタッ
!?
HUH!?

HE'S ACTUALLY GETTING READY TO PLAY...
HE..


AHH...


IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I TOUCHED A KEYBOARD...

WHOA!!
AH!!
WHAT THE!?

Chapter 54 Roadside Concert

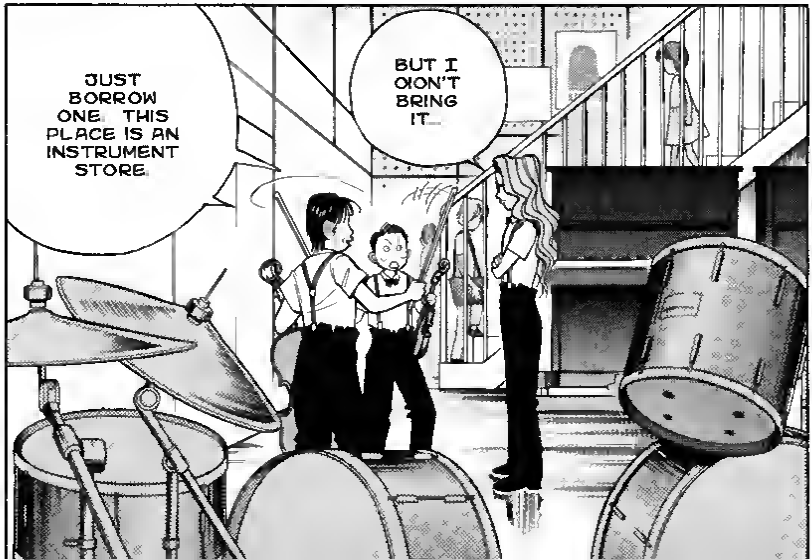
The piece that Kai is playing can be found in the "Musical Treasure Box" at the NTT Docomo iMode public website. Fourth movement Eurobeat of A New World.

NO...
IS YOUR INSTRU-MENT TUNED?
HEY.
NO WAY, RIGHT?
YEP. PER-FECTLY.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WAIT A MINUTE!

THAT PIECE ISN'T COMPLETE WITHOUT US OUT THERE!
THEN LET'S GO! IT'S A BIT EARLY, BUT IT'S SHOW-TIME!

YOU WEREN'T A PIANO SPECIALIST TO BEGIN WITH, RIGHT? GO PLAY YOUR OWN INSTRU-MENT.
UH, YOU?


JUST BORROW ONE. THIS PLACE IS AN INSTRUMENT STORE.
BUT I DION'T BRING IT...

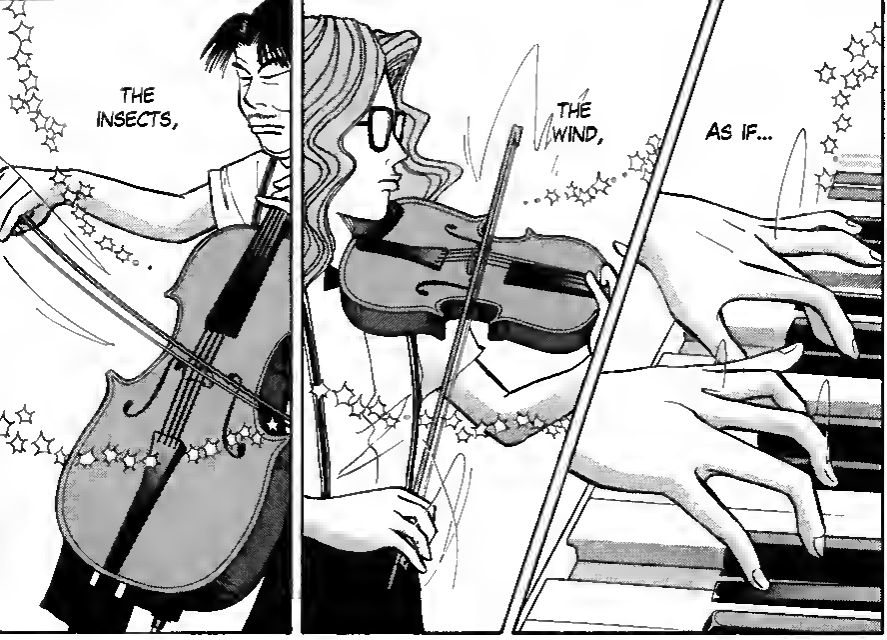
!
!
!
AH-

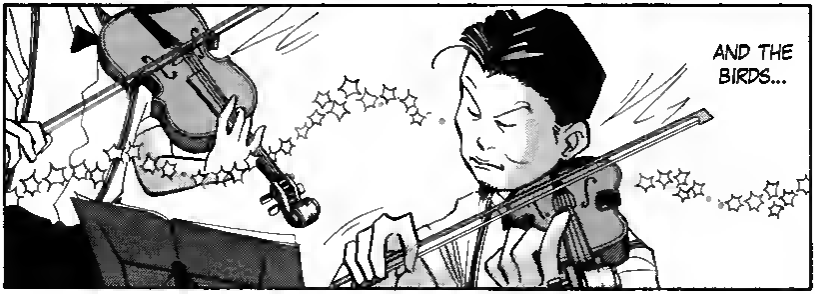
IT'S...
THIS SOUND...
OH...!

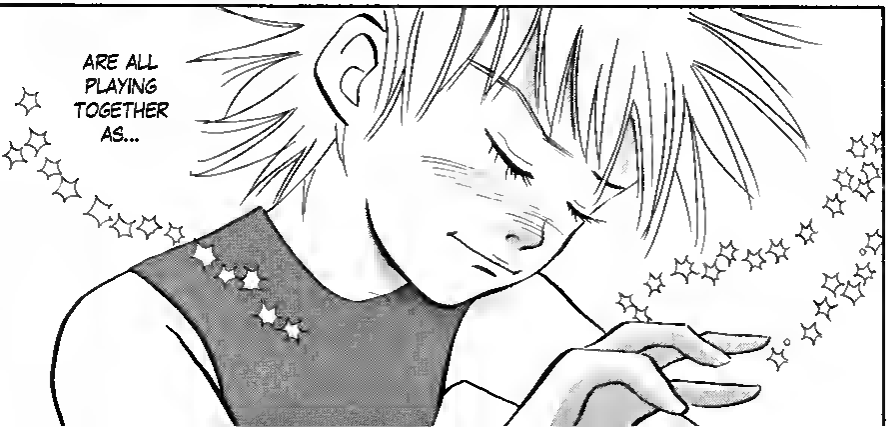
THE PIANO OF THE FOREST.

AND THE SOUND OF CELLO?
THE SOUND OF A VIOLIN...
THESE SOUNDS...

ARE BECOMING ONE...


THE INSECTS,
THE WIND,
AS IF...


AND THE BIRDS...


ARE ALL PLAYING TOGETHER AS...

THE FOREST OF THE PIANO.

YOU WILL ONLY SURVIVE WITH A PIANO BY YOUR SIDE.

KAI...

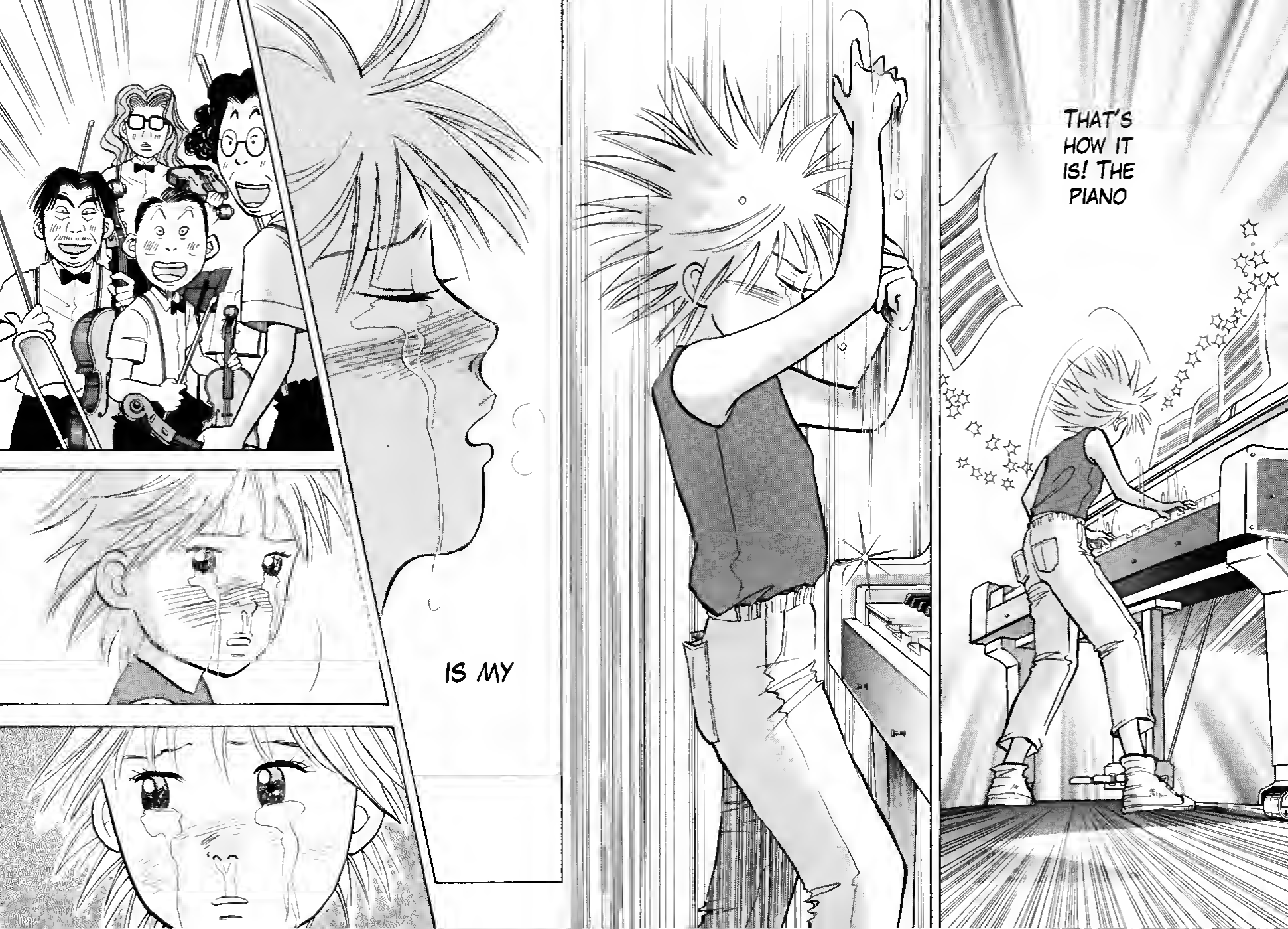
IT'S TRUE...

REI ...

GO PLAY THE PIANO!

ICHINOSE!

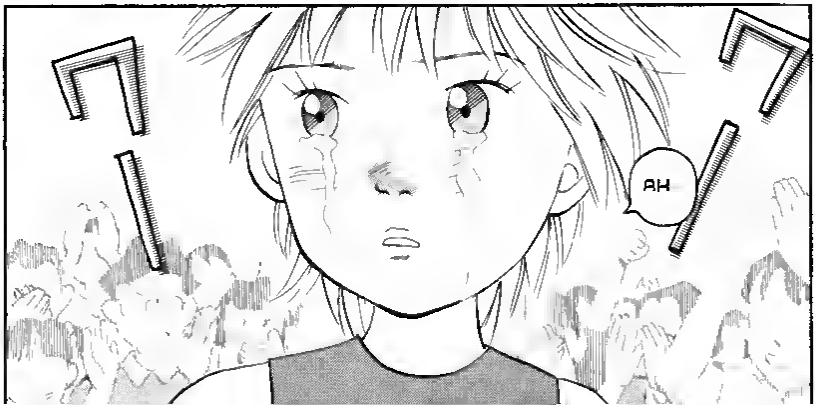
BECAUSE IT LIVES WITHIN YOU.
THE PIANO OF THE FOREST IS INSIDE OF YOU...
THAT'S HOW IT IS.

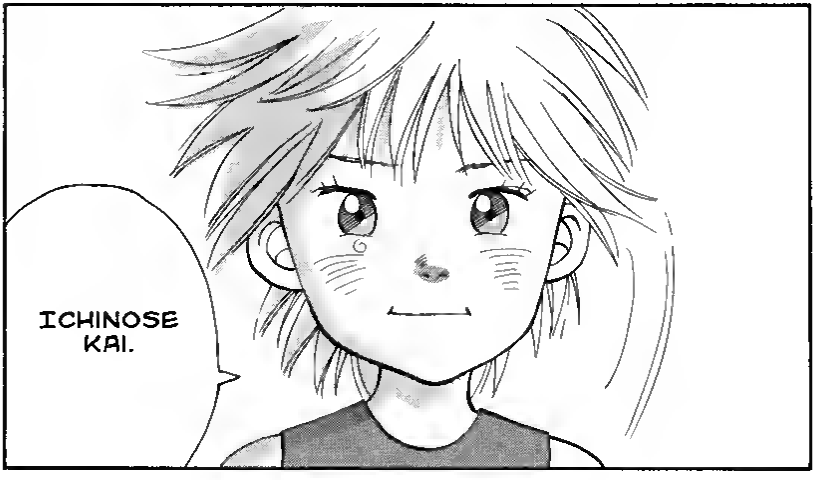

IS MY
THAT'S HOW IT IS! THE PIANO

SOUL.

The Perfect World of KAI

ワアアア


ワ
ワ
AH



Chapter 55 Amamiya's Resolve

ガシッ
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, KAI
I AM THE VIOLA PLAYER, KAMATA!
I AM THE CELLO PLAYER, TAKA-DABA!
I AM THE VIOLINIST, SHINA-GAWA!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

I AM THE FORMER PIANIST, SHIBUYA...

YOU SHOULD BE PRAISING HIM FOR SUCH WONDERFUL PLAY

BUT MAN, TALK ABOUT A SHOCK...

AHAHA, WHAT'S WITH THE MEAN LOOK!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

Encore!

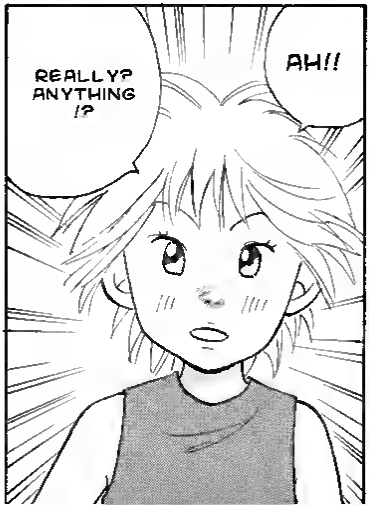
Encore!!

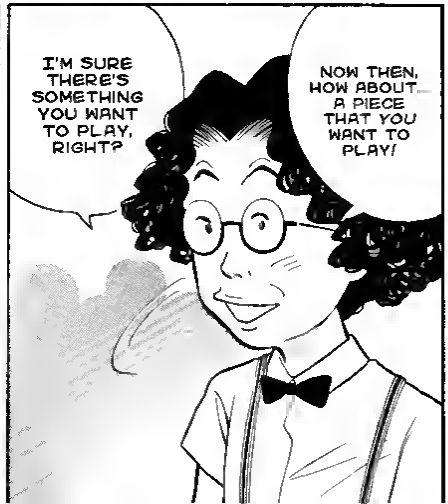
Encore!!!

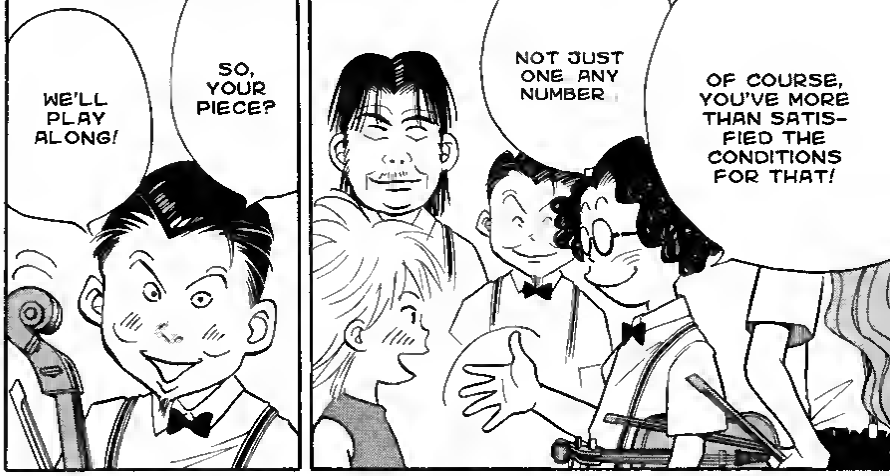
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SO MANY PEOPLE GATHEREO FOR A SHOW.

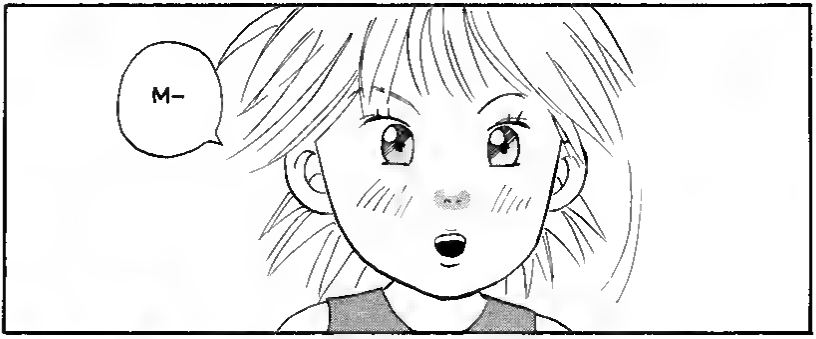
WE'VE BEEN PLAYING LIVE ON THIS PEOESTRIAN MALL FOR A WHILE NOW...

UN-BELIEV-ABLE!





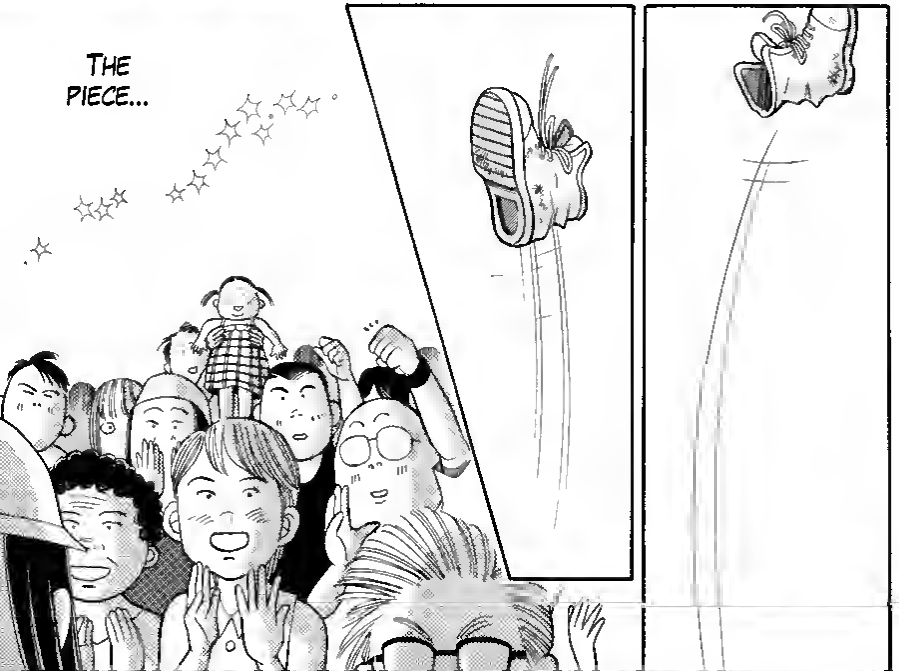

WE'LL PLAY ALONG!
SO, YOUR PIECE?
NOT JUST ONE ANY NUMBER
OF COURSE, YOU'VE MORE THAN SATIS-FIED THE CONDITIONS FOR THAT!

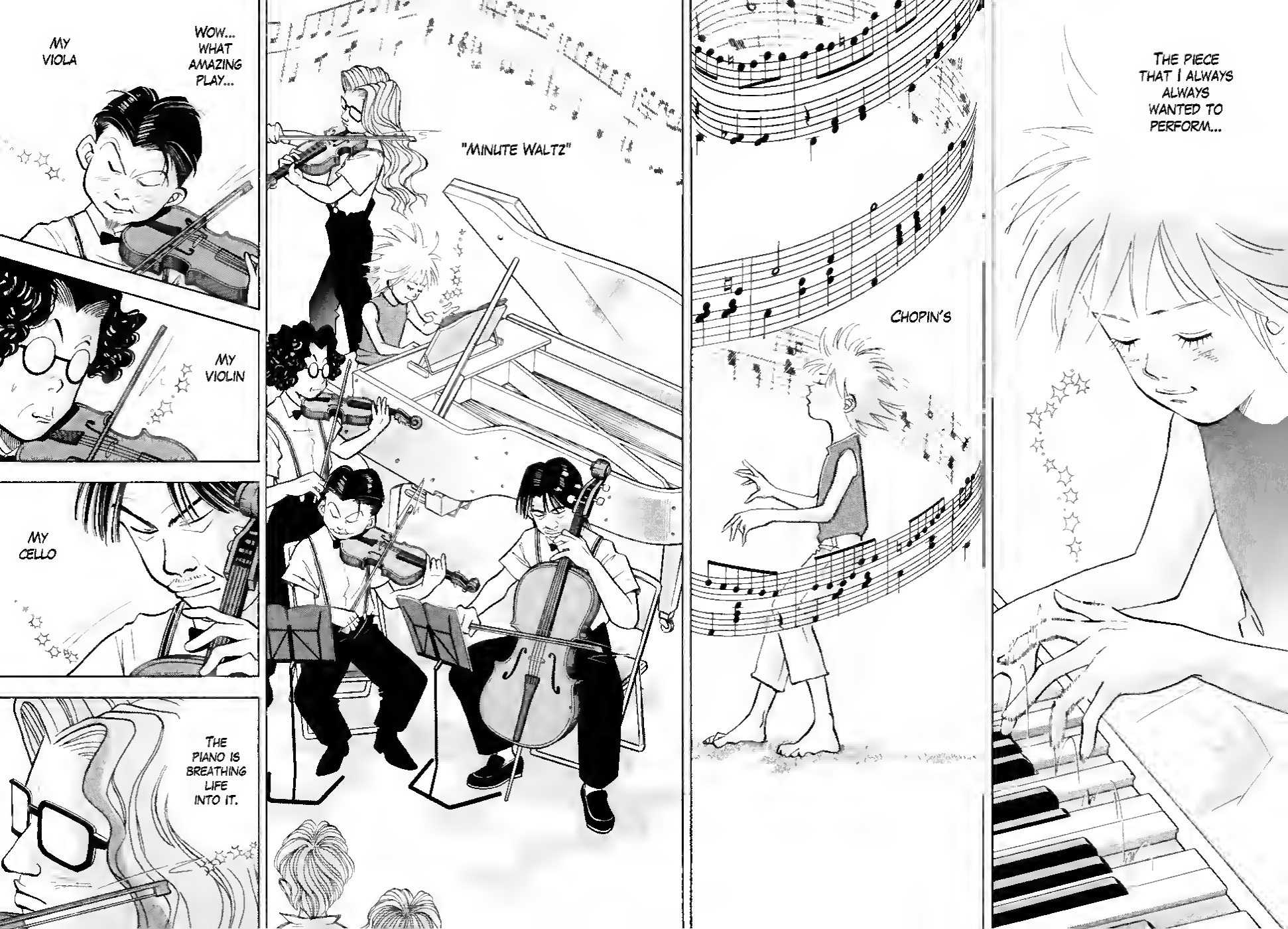

M-

"MINUTE WALTZ."

アンコール
アンコール
アンコール
アンコール

sfx. Encore!



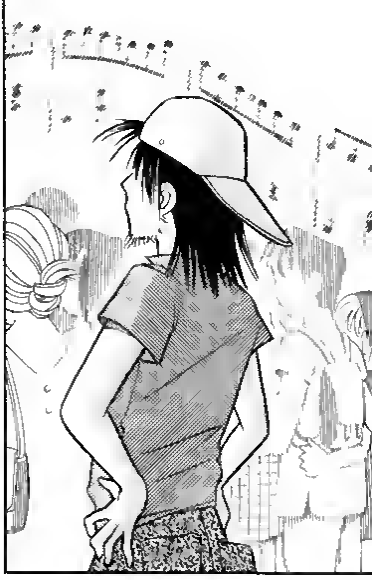

MY VIOLA
WOW... WHAT AMAZING PLAY...
MY VIOLIN
MY CELLO
THE PIANO IS BREATHING LIFE INTO IT.
"MINUTE WALTZ"
CHOPIN'S
THE PIECE THAT I ALWAYS ALWAYS WANTED TO PERFORM...

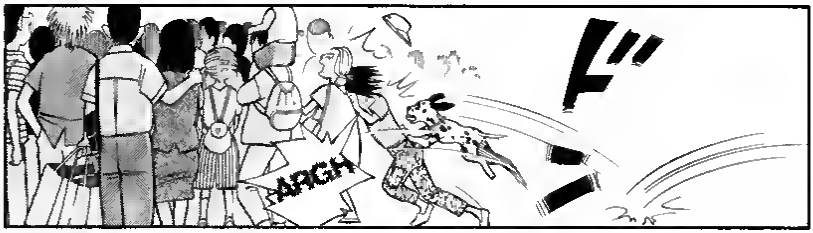
ピooo…
ピooo…
ピooo…
Pirororo…
歩行者天国
PM1:00~PM5:00
じたじた
ピooooォ

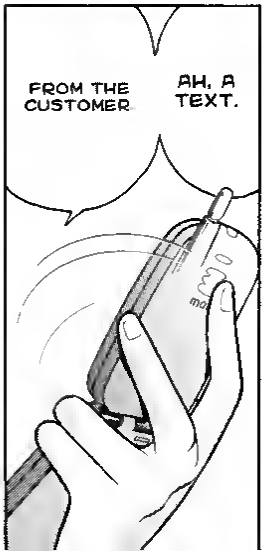
Pirororo
はく
Pirororo
Pirororo...

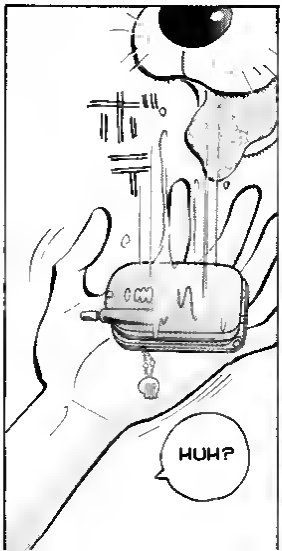
IT FEELS LIKE MY SOUL IS BEING PURIFIED.

DAMN. HE SURE IS GOOD, THAT KAI!

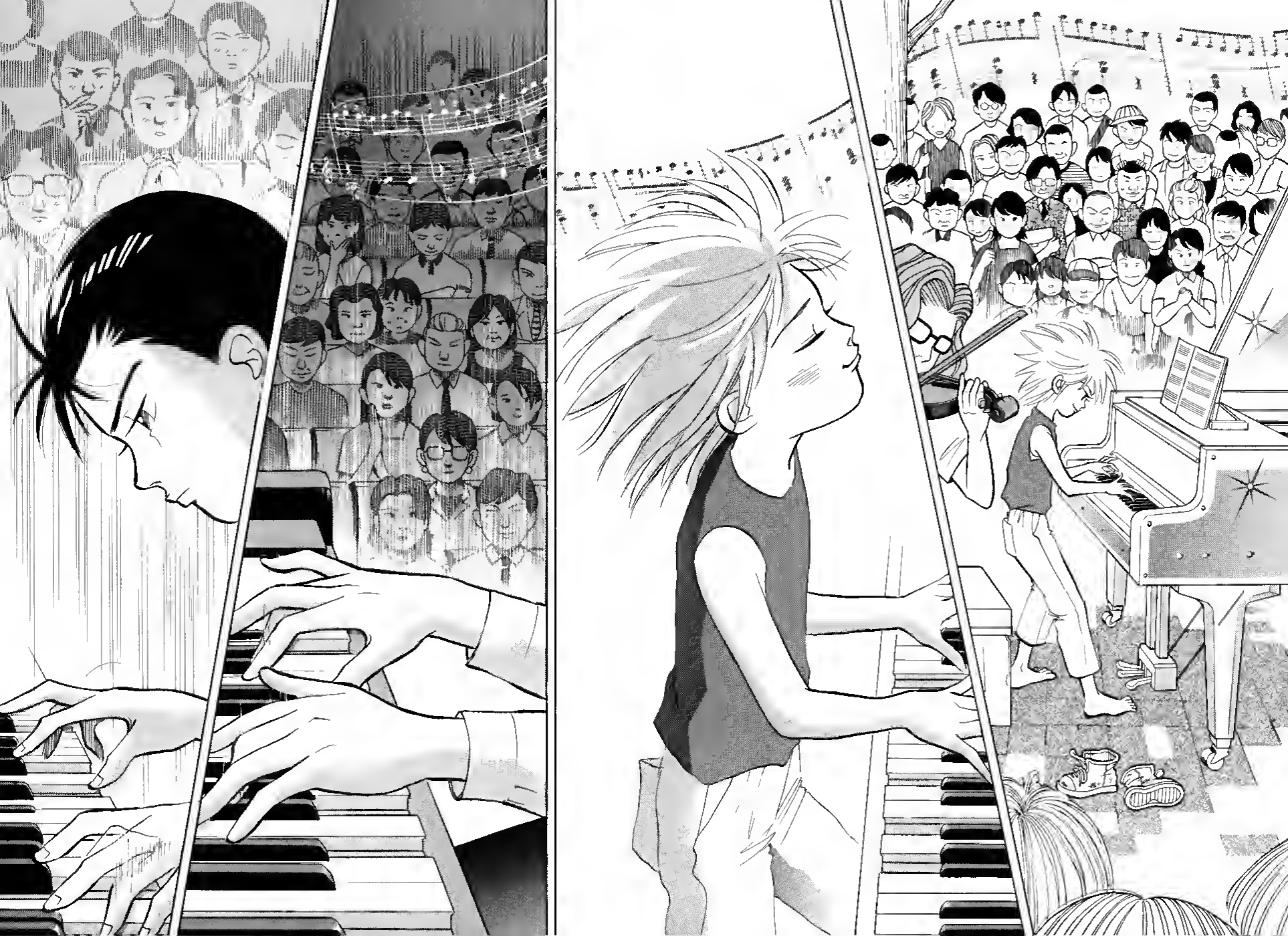


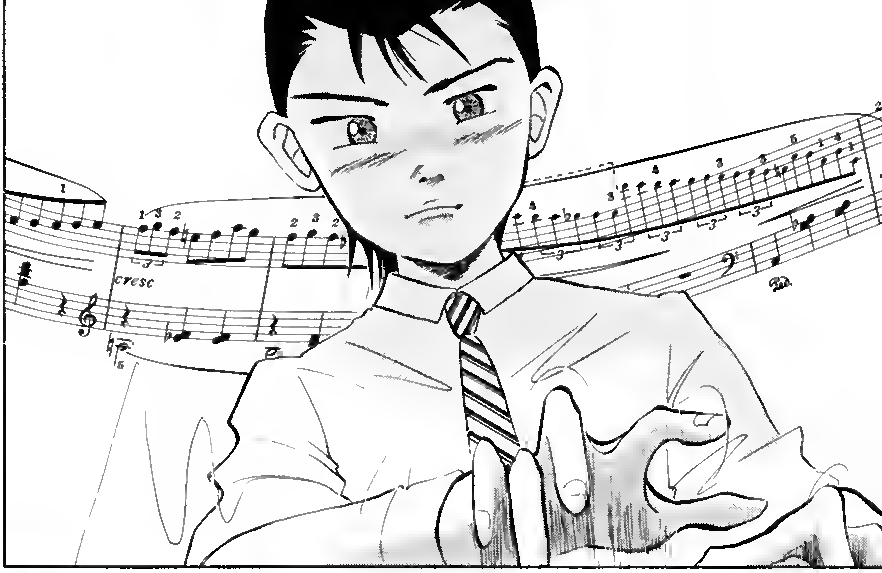






THIS IS A REALLY BAD TIME TO TRY 'N DRAG HIM AWAY FROM HERE.
KAI...
I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A CARGO DELIVERY.
OH CRAP!!
WELL..
AS LONG AS I'M BACK IN A FLASH ...

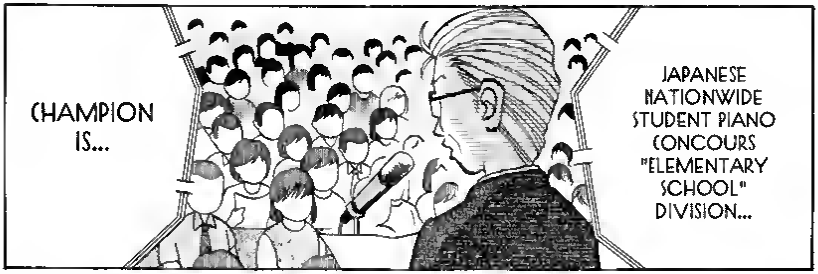


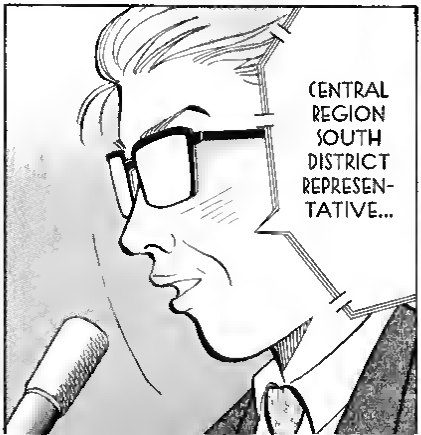

cresc

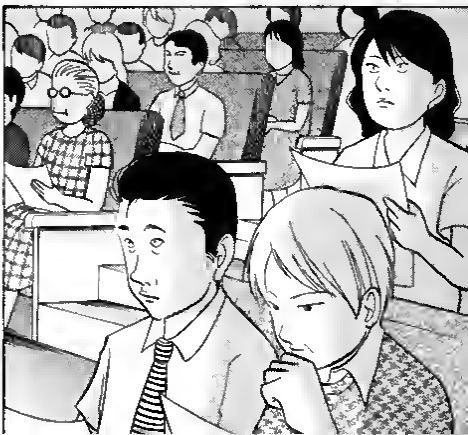
pan

パチパチパチパ

THE 56TH...

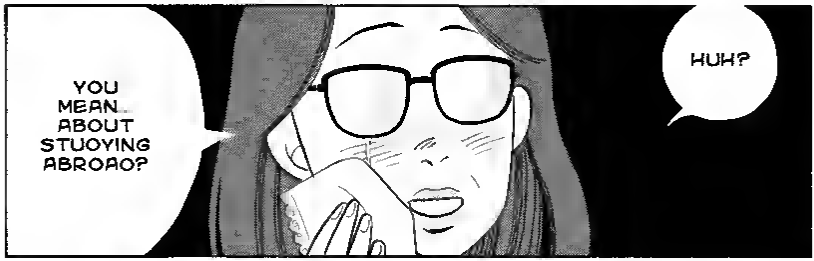

CHAMPION IS...
JAPANESE NATIONWIDE STUDENT PIANO CONCOURS "ELEMENTARY SCHOOL" DIVISION...

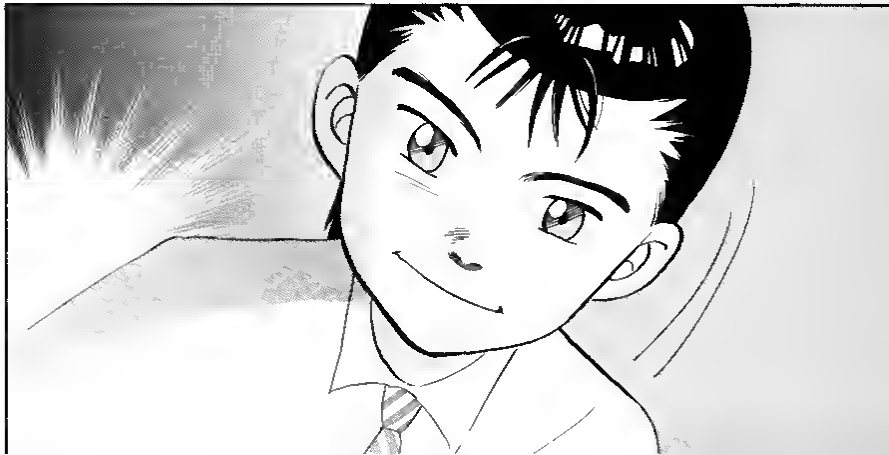

CENTRAL REGION SOUTH DISTRICT REPRESEN-TATIVE...



AMAMIYA
SYUHEI!!

MOTHER... LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT WHEN I COME BACK.
WHAT WILL WE DO?
WHAT
SYUHEI, JAPAN'S NUMBER ONE! JAPAN'S NUMBER ONE!
SYU-


YOU MEAN... ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD?
HUH?



PLUS YOU HAVE TO TALK IT OVER THOROUGHLY WITH FATHER...
WHAT ARE... YOU AREN'T IN A HURRY... WAIT ANOTHER YEAR...
I HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED WHAT I AIMED FOR IN JAPAN
FATHER UNDER-STANDS.
I AM IN HURRY.
I AM IN A HURRY. I CAN'T WASTE A SINGLE YEAR.
PLEASE, A WARM ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR YOUNG AMAMIYA.

ICHINOSE KAI WILL PROBABLY STEP INTO THE WIDER WORLD,

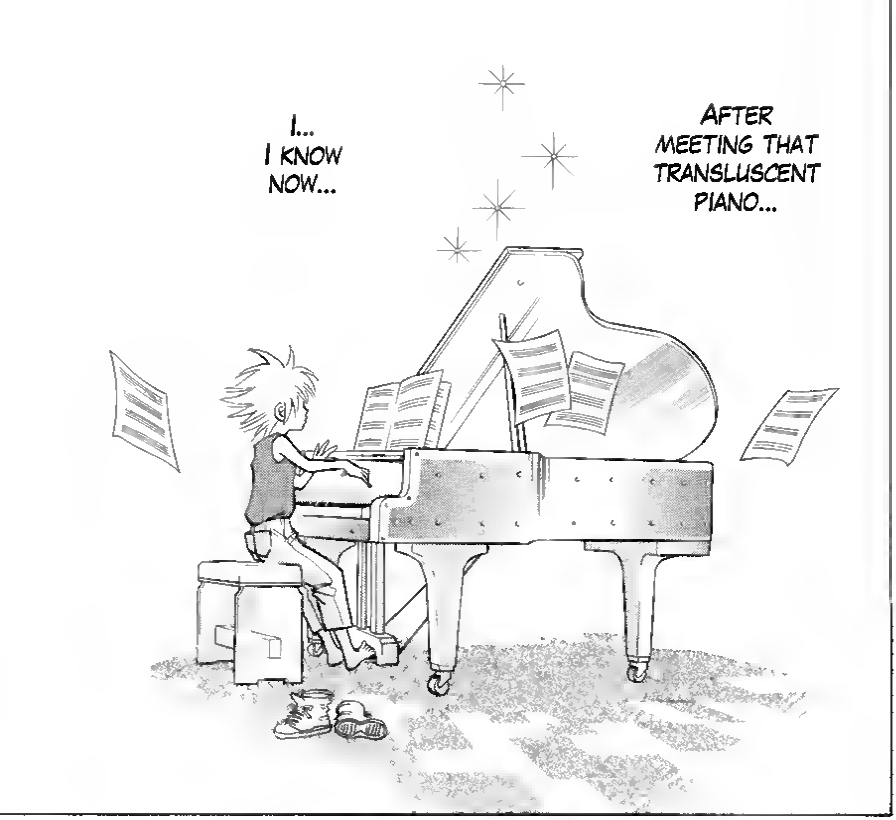
WHEREVER THAT AJINO SOUSUKE WILL TAKE HIM.

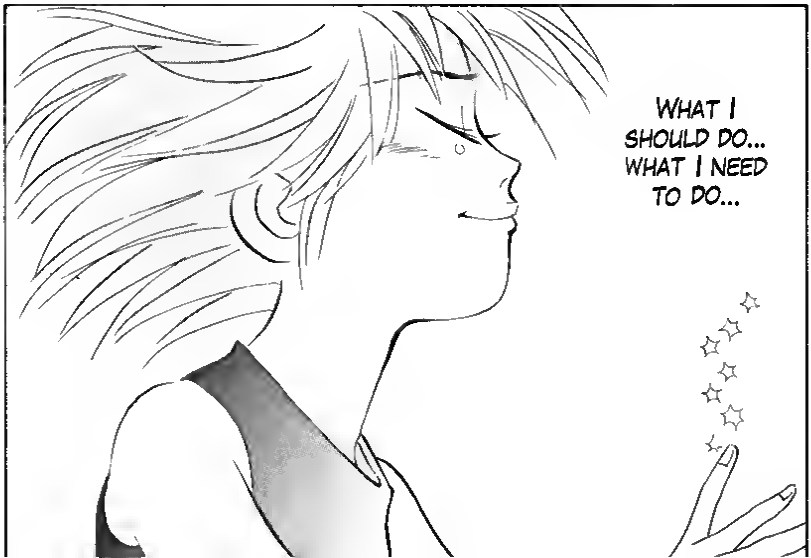
全日本学生ピアノコンクール
第56回 全国大会
KAI...
I WILL BE LEAVING JAPAN.
IN ORDER TO COMPETE WITH YOU...

I WILL HEAD OUT INTO THE "WORLD" FIRST!
雨宮の決意 END

The Perfect World of KAI

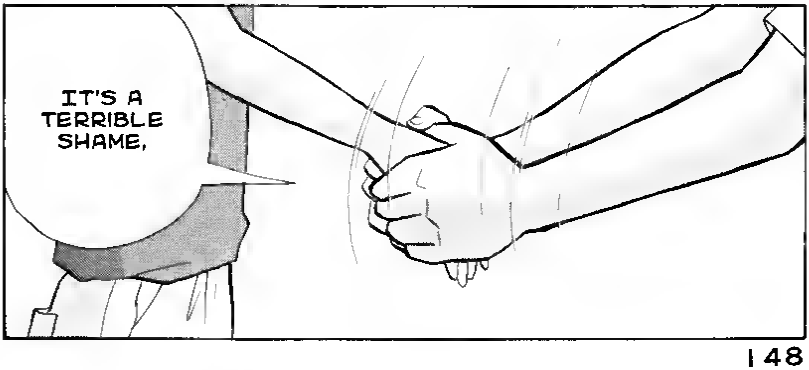
Chapter 56 The Most Crucial Thing


I...
I KNOW
NOW...
AFTER
MEETING THAT
TRANSLUSCENT
PIANO...


WHAT I
SHOULD DO...
WHAT I NEED
TO DO...

HAVE MY COMPANIONS ...

AND THERE I...



WE GAVE YOU OUR CONTACT INFO, RIGHT?

THERE'S NO MORE TIME TODAY

YEAH, YOU GAVE ME THREE BUSINESS CARDS!

I AM REALLY GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU!

WILL YOU BE ABLE TO FIND YOUR FRIEND, ALL RIGHT?

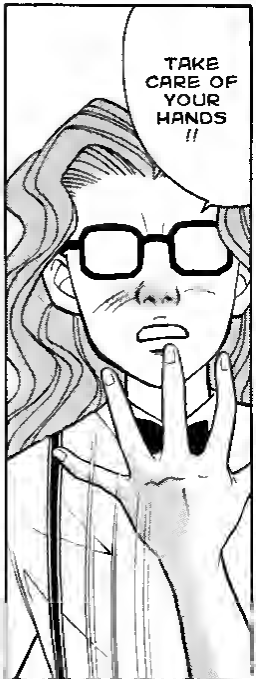
BUT LOOK AT THIS HUGE CROWD

EVEN IF I CAN'T FIND HIM, I CAN JUST GO WAIT WHERE HE PARKED THE TRUCK

YEAH, I'LL BE FINE

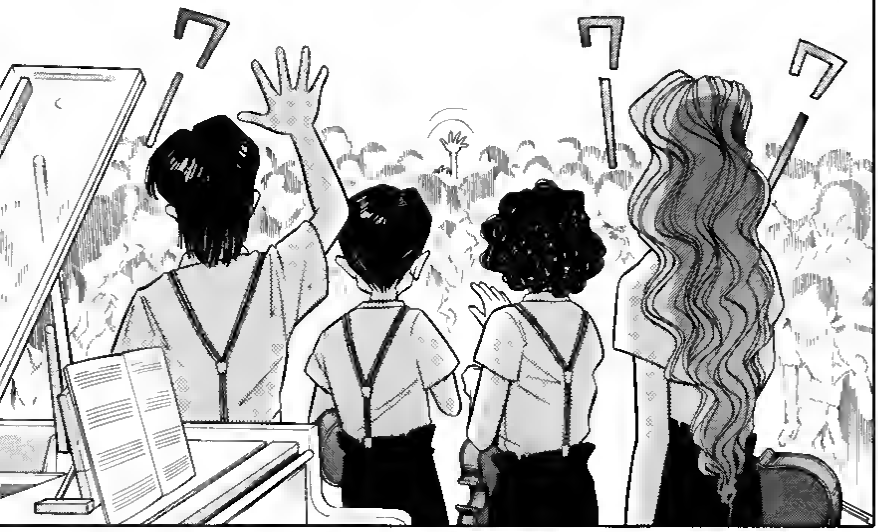
THANKS FOR LETTING ME PLAY THE PIANO!!

BYE, SEE YOU AGAIN!


TAKE CARE OF YOUR HANDS !!

WE'LL DEFINITELY BE CALL-ING YOU TOO!!

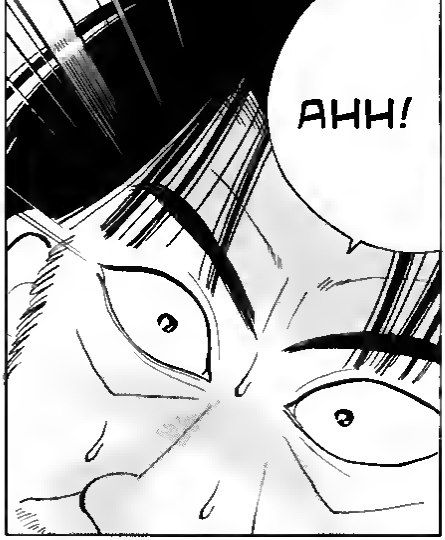
DEFI-NITELY GIVE US A CALL!!
WE SHOULD BE THANK-ING YOU!!



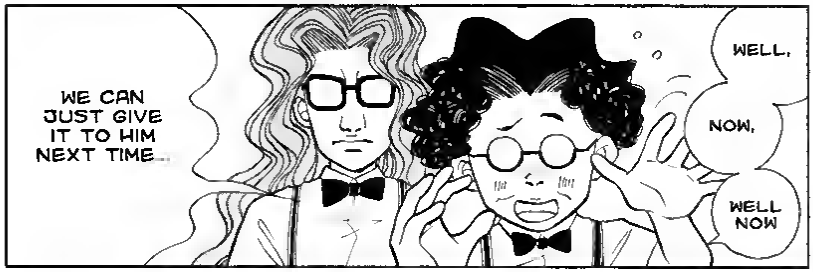
THERE HE GOES.

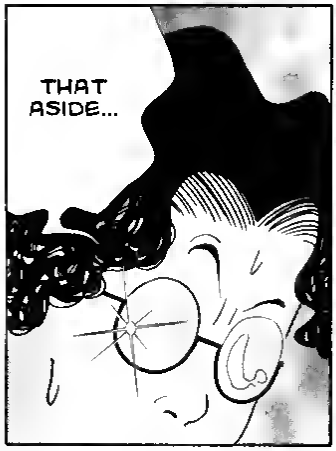
Ah!
WE ALSO HANDED HIM THREE OF OUR CARDS. WE DIDN'T FORGET ANYTHING, RIGHT?

I'VE GOT IT PER-FECTLY MEMO-RIZED.
AND HIS CONTACT NUMBER?


AHH!

WE FORGOT TO GIVE HIM PAY FOR TODAY'S PERFOR-MANCE!!


WE CAN JUST GIVE IT TO HIM NEXT TIME...
WELL,
NOW,
WELL NOW

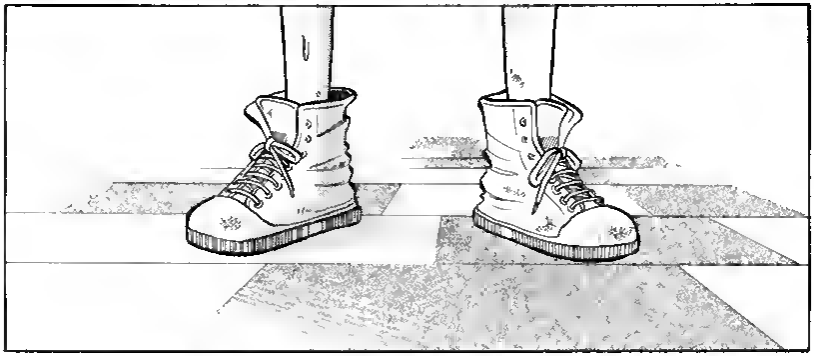

THAT ASIDE...

YEAH!
RIGHT!
RIGHT!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THESE SPECTATORS HERE?
SO WE'LL HAVE TO BITE THE BULLET AND FINISH IT
WE CAN'T PUT UP A DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE NOW...
ABOUT THAT.
MYEAH...
RIGHT!
RIGHT!
NO OBJECTIONS FROM ME!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN AT THE SAME TIME, NEXT SUNDAY

UHHHHHH, TODAY'S PEDESTRIAN MALL LIVE PERFOR-MANCE ENDS HERE!!



... NO WAY.

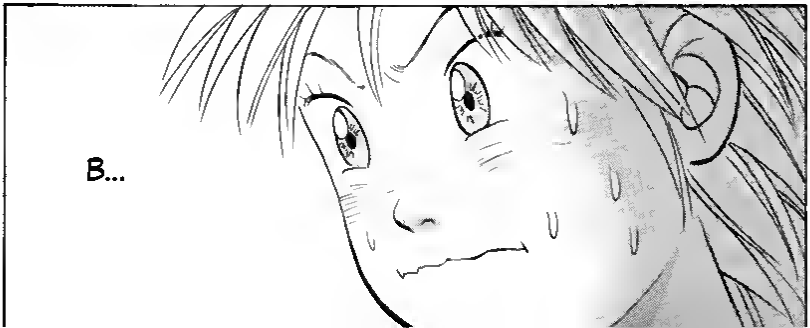
.....

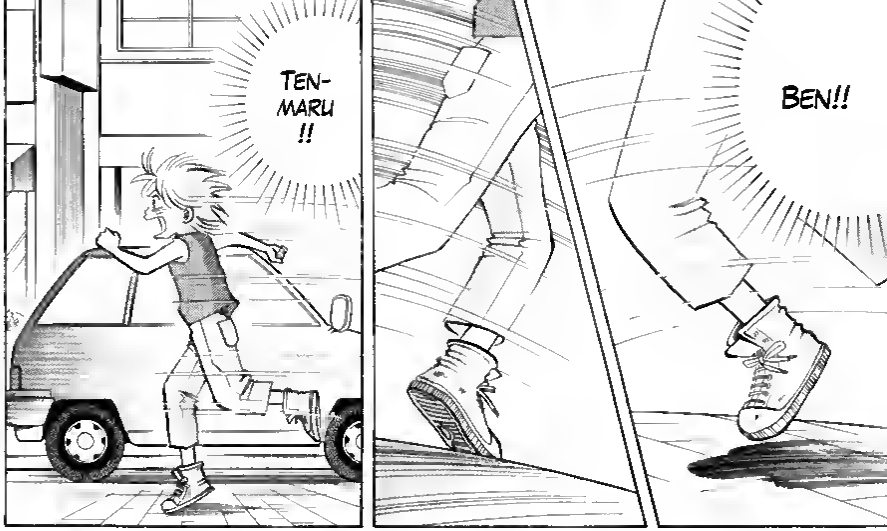
BEN'S TRUCK ISN'T HERE!!

IT'S NOT HERE!

行者天国

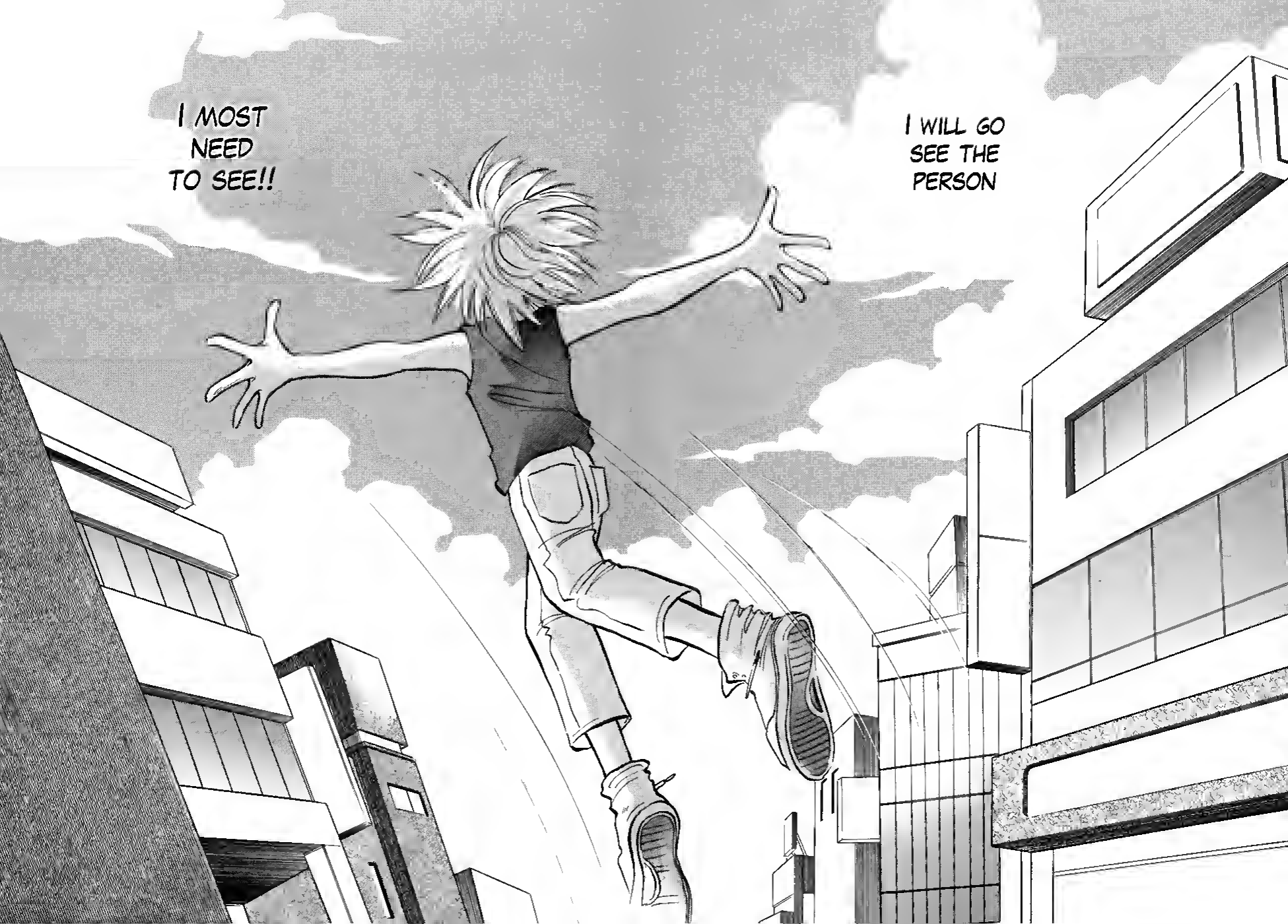
PM1:00～PM5:00



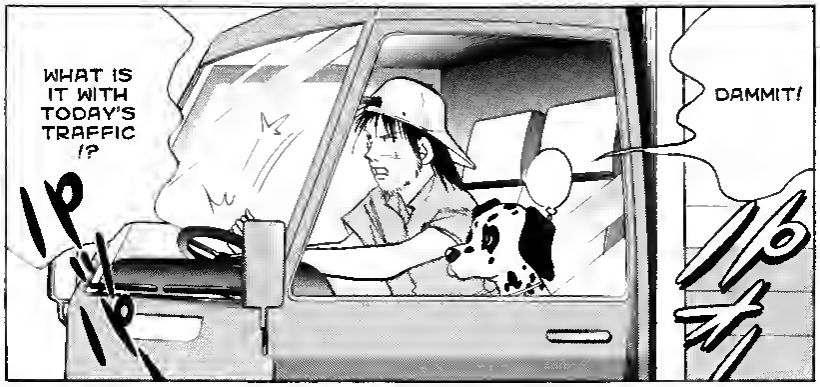

TEN-MARU !!
BEN!!

THEY'VE DISAP-PEARED.
I'VE BEEN LEFT BEHIND...

UGH...
NOT ONE CENT.
THAT'S RIGHT!!
I CAN CALL BEN'S CELL PHONE...
WHAT AM I GONNA DO NOW...
STUCK IN SOME STRANGE PLACE WITHOUT ANY MONEY...
はぁ～っ
Sigh
FIRST THING... I-
WHAT I'M GONNA DO... IT'S OBVIOUS!
AHA...


I MOST NEED TO SEE!!
I WILL GO SEE THE PERSON

ブッ
ブッ
ブッ
ブッ

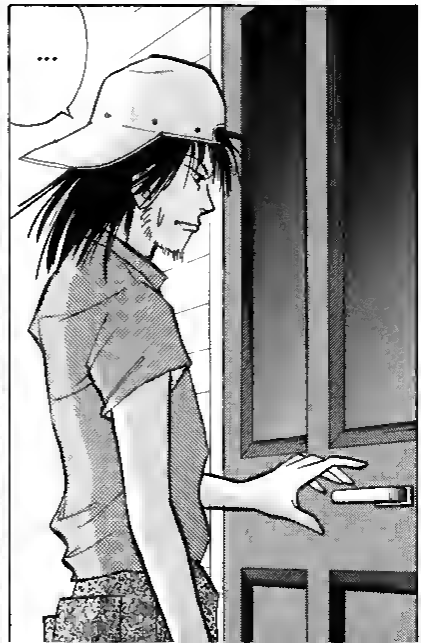

WHAT IS IT WITH TODAY'S TRAFFIC !?
DAMMIT!

NOW I CAN'T EVEN HURRY TO BE LATE...
IT WAS "AS LONG AS I'M BACK IN A FLASH..."

HE WOULDN'T STILL BE HERE...
HE...
KAI—!!!

吠

…


…

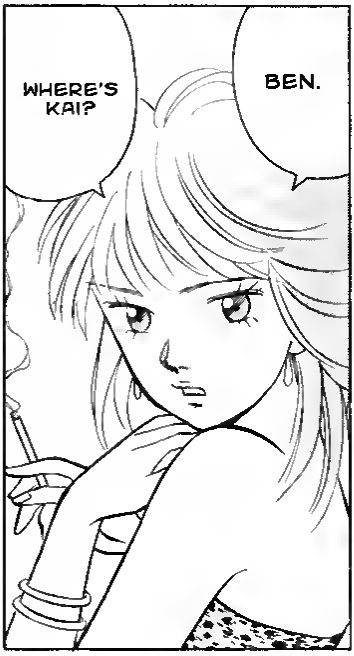
deep breath
AHH, HE'S BACK!!!
HEY, HANDYMAN, YOU'RE LATE!!

YOU, WE DON'T CARE ABOUT; BUT KAI IS SOME-BODY'S KID, YOU KNOW

IT'S 2 AM FOR PEOPLE OUT HERE IN THE REAL WORLD !!

YOU CAN TAKE KAI ALONG, BUT WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS NOW!?

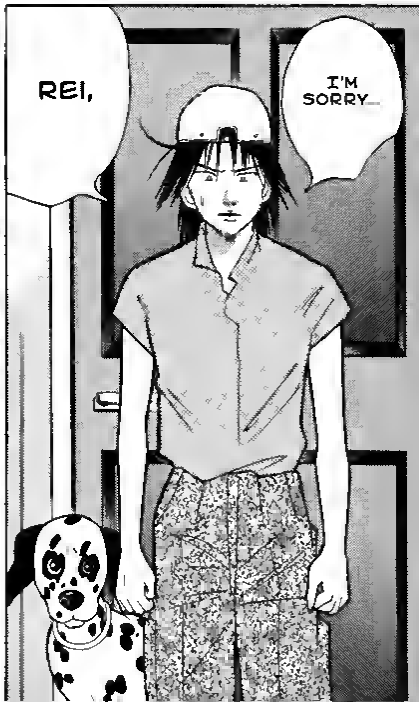
EVEN IF REI WERE TO ALLOW IT, I WON'T HAVE ANY OF IT!!



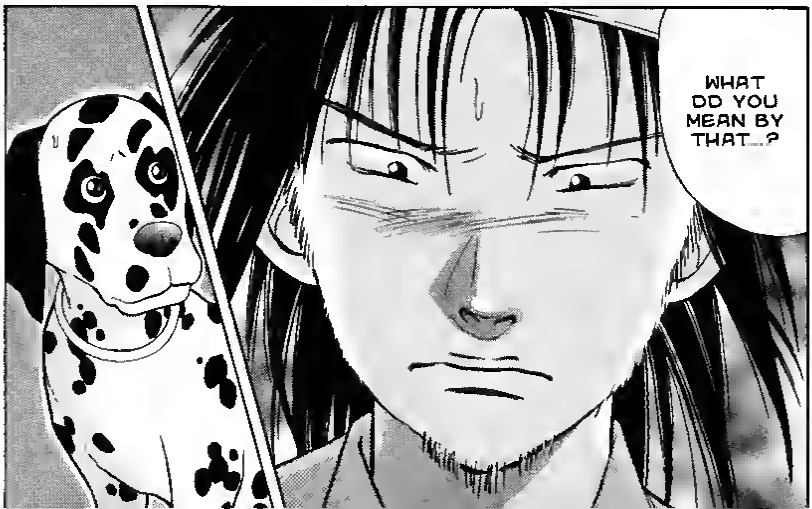
一番大切なもの END

Chapter 57
Lost

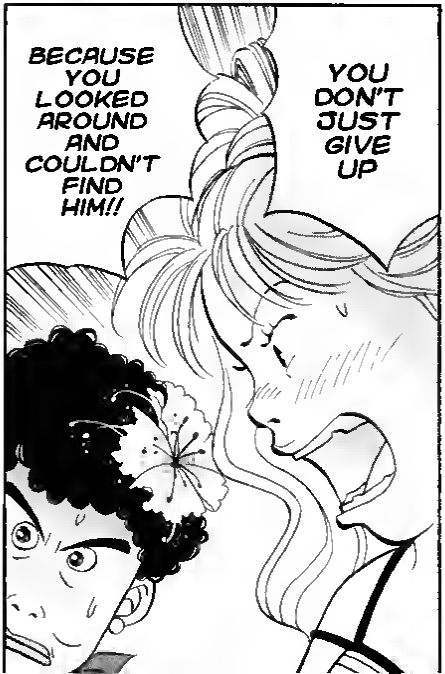
KAI'S DISAP-PEARED.


REI,
I'M SORRY...

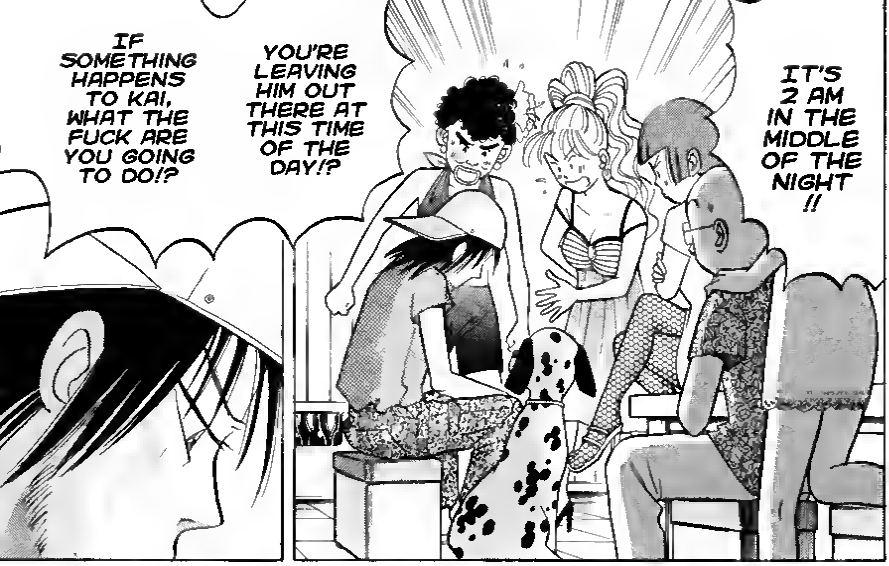
DISAP-
PEARED...
WHAT
ACK!

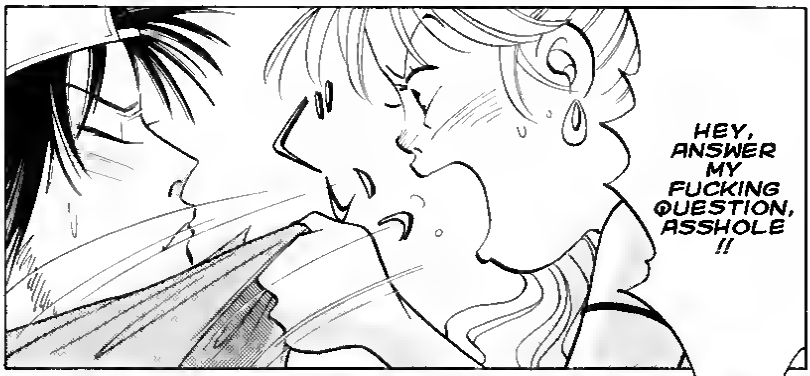

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN BY
THAT...?

YOU...


BECAUSE YOU LOOKED AROUND AND COULDN'T FIND HIM!!
YOU DON'T JUST GIVE UP

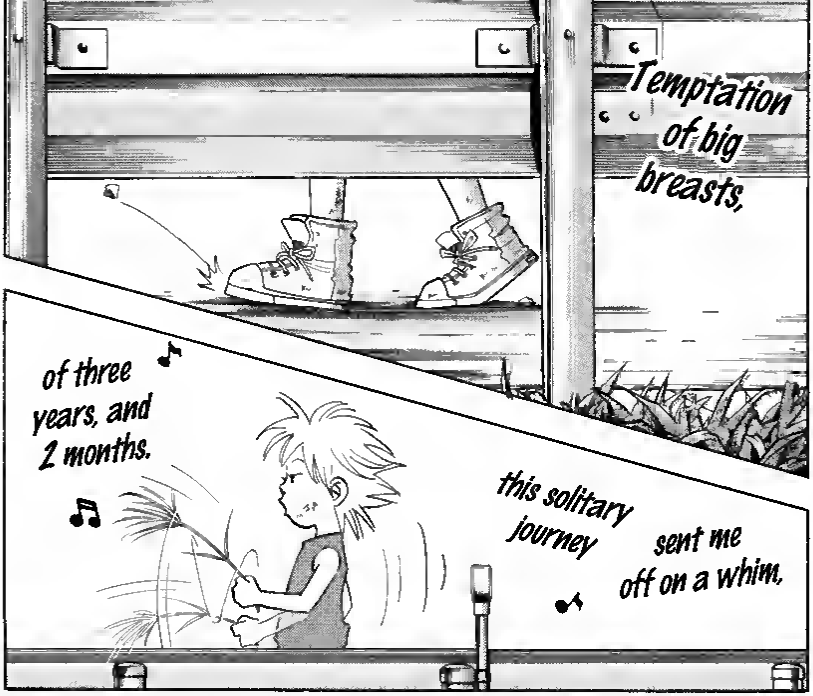
YOU'VE GOTTA BE FUCKING KIDDING ME, HANDY-MAN!!
暁


IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO KAI, WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU GOING TO DO!?
YOU'RE LEAVING HIM OUT THERE AT THIS TIME OF THE DAY!?
IT'S 2 AM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT !!

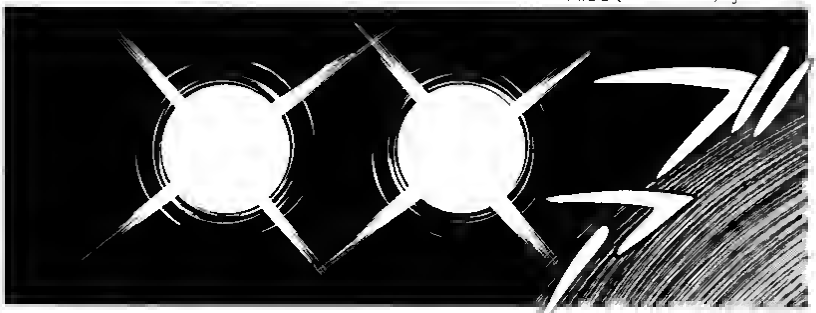

HEY, ANSWER MY FUCKING QUESTION, ASSHOLE !!

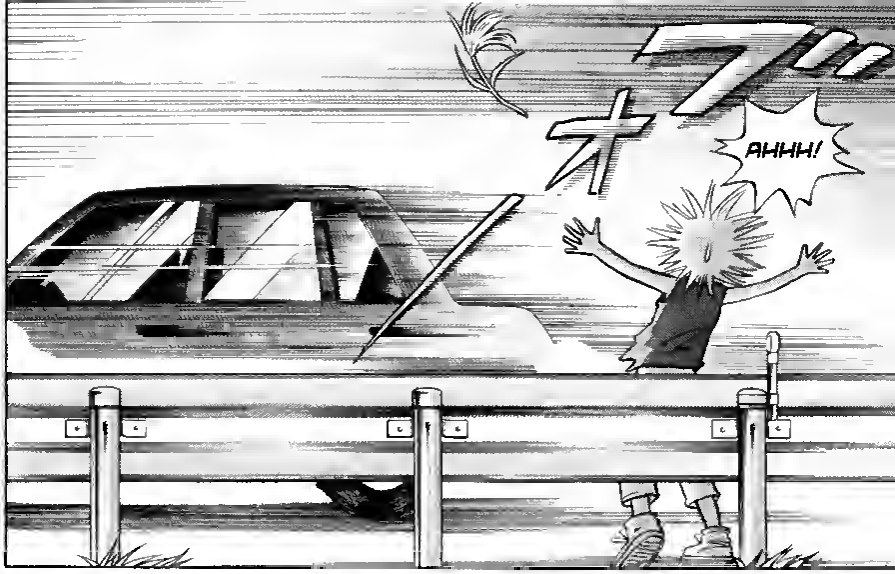
I'M SORRY BEN,
BUT THERE IS NO WAY I CAN STICK UP FOR YOU THIS TIME.
HEY!

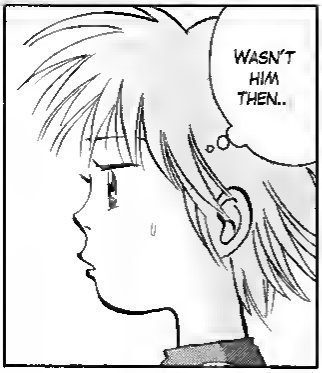
THAT ISN'T HIM DISAP-PEARING.
YOU LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT IN SOME UNFAMILIAR PLACE THAT'S OVER 2 HOURS AWAY FROM HERE BY CAR...
THAT'S YOU LEAVING HIM BEHIND.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU, KAI IS STILL A KID!
HE PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ANY MONEY ON HIM...



大迷惑 (Dai Meiwaku) by Unicorn

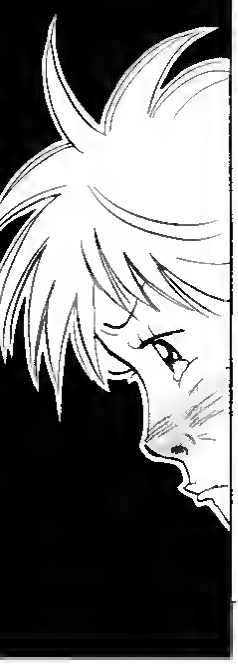


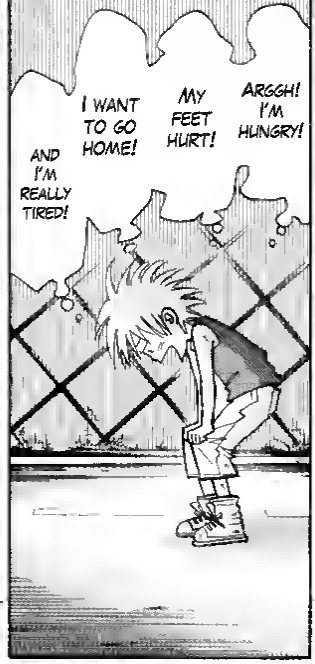

AHHH!

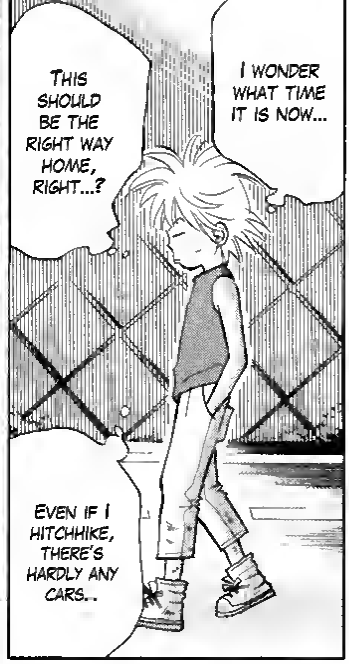

WASN'T HIM THEN..

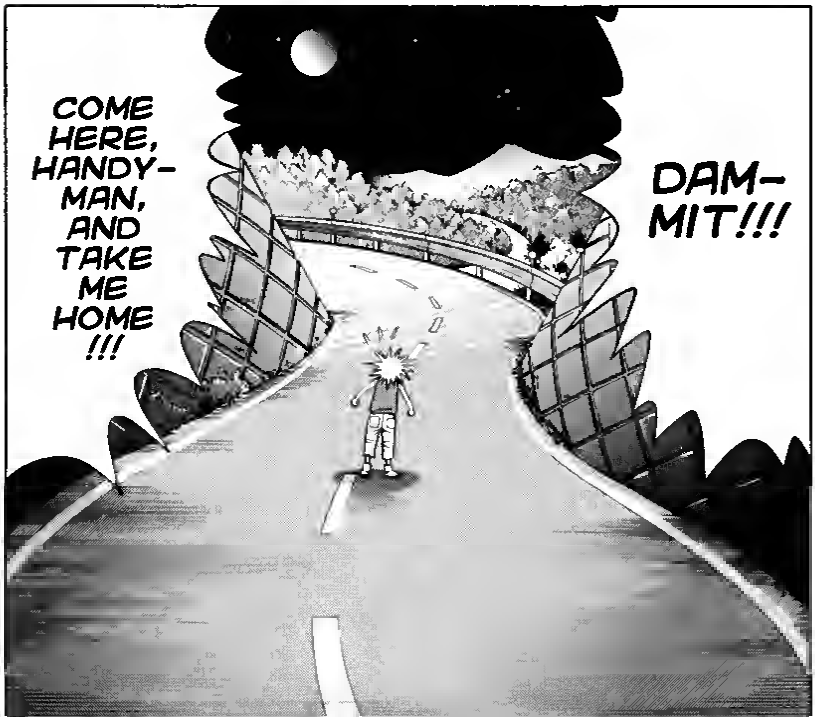
ブオオ…

I REALLY SHOULD HAVE WAITED BACK THERE...
はあ…




I WANT TO GO HOME!
MY FEET HURT!
ARGGH! I'M HUNGRY!
AND I'M REALLY TIRED!


THIS SHOULD BE THE RIGHT WAY HOME, RIGHT...?
I WONDER WHAT TIME IT IS NOW...
EVEN IF I HITCHHIKE, THERE'S HARDLY ANY CARS..


COME HERE, HANDY-MAN, AND TAKE ME HOME !!!
DAM-MIT!!!

KAI'S STILL A KID, BUT HE AIN'T ND ORDINARY KID

HE'LL PDP UP SDME-WHERE ARDUND HERE, SAFE AND SDUND

HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, REI/

HAVE YOU CALLEO 119?

BEN,

THEY SAID THEY'VE SENT A SPARE OFFICER OUT TO LOOK FDR HIM

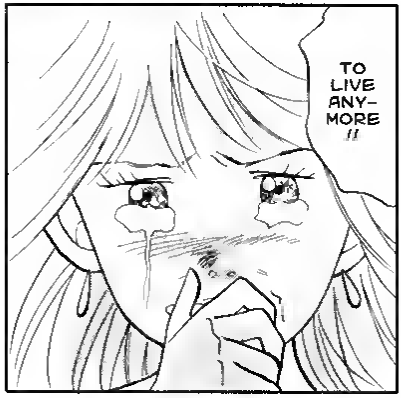
ANYWAYS, WE'VE REPDRTED IT TD THE POLICE,

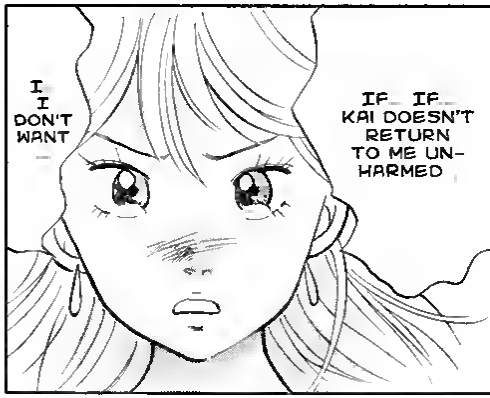
THERE HASN'T BEEN WDRD DF ANY ACCI-DENTS

YEAH,

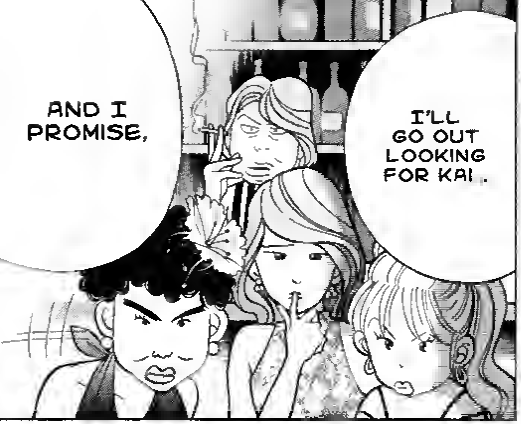
IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN, THEY WOULD...
IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN, DON'T EVER COME BACK HERE AGAIN!!
GUAAH

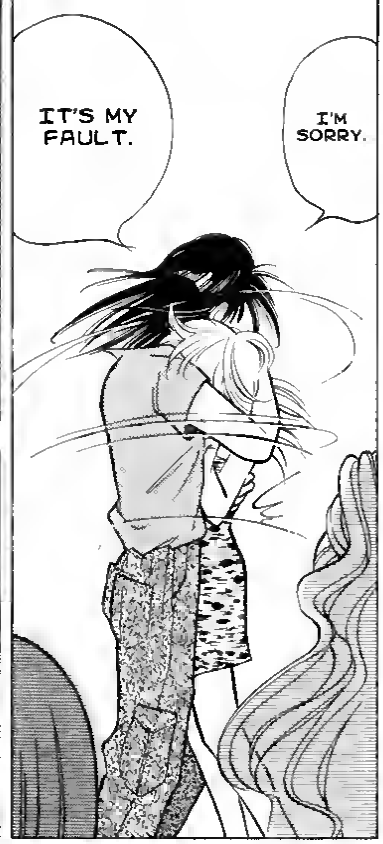
RE-
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO KAI, DON'T EVER COME BACK HERE AGAIN!!!
CALM DOWN, REI!!!
REI!

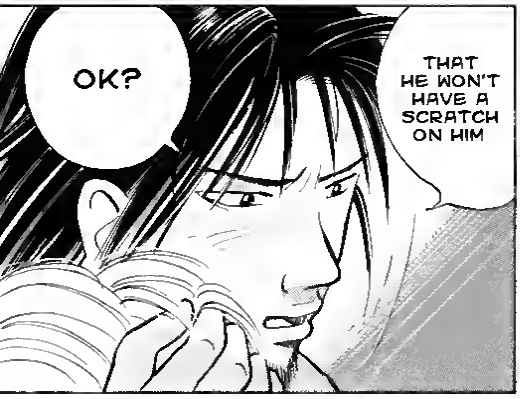

TO LIVE ANY-MORE !!


I I DON'T WANT
IF IF KAI DOESN'T RETURN TO ME UN-HARMED

REI!

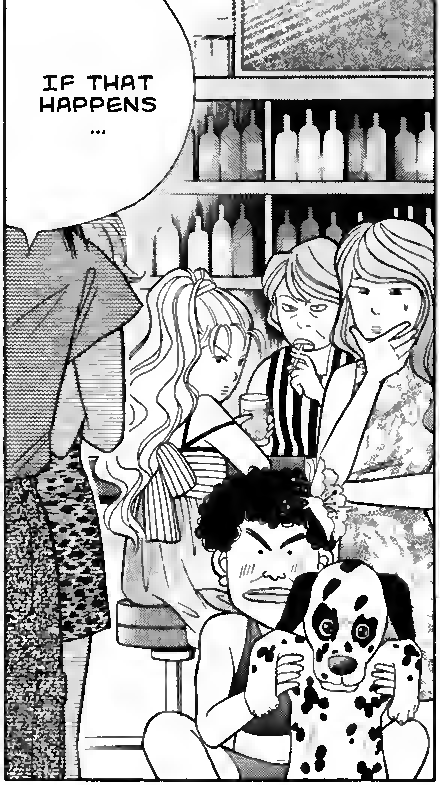

AND I PROMISE,
I'LL GO OUT LOOKING FOR KAI.

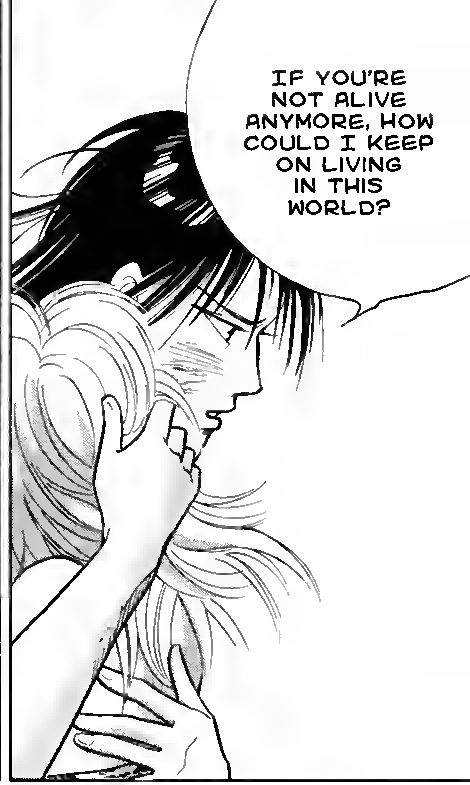

IT'S MY FAULT.
I'M SORRY.

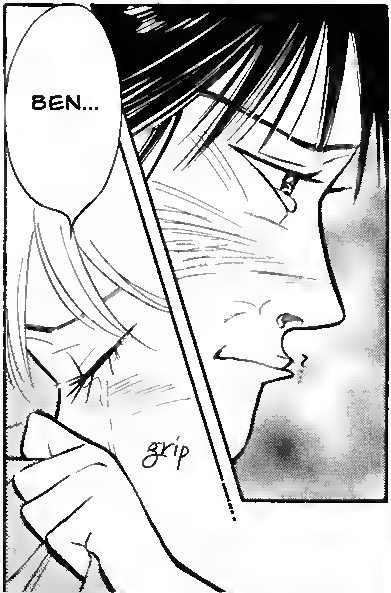

OK?
THAT HE WON'T HAVE A SCRATCH ON HIM

KILL ME.
YEAH,

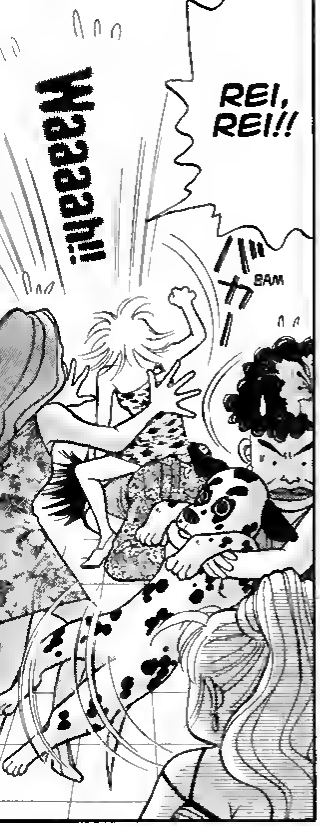
I'LL KILL YOU.
AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO KAI,

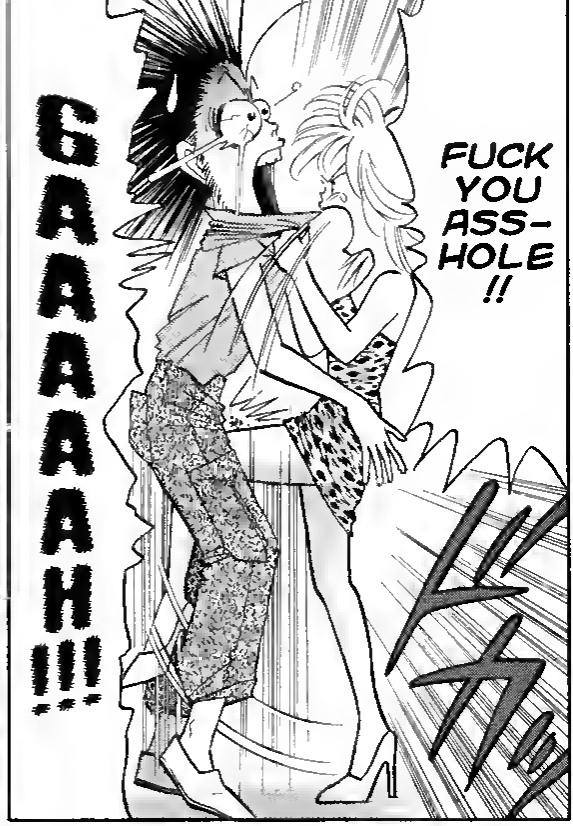

IF THAT HAPPENS ...

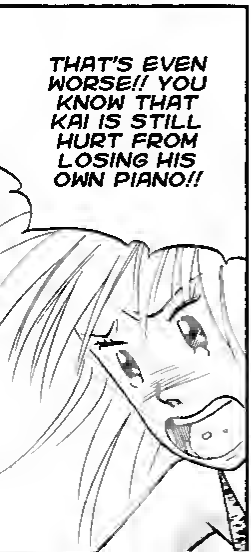

IF YOU'RE NOT ALIVE ANYMORE, HOW COULD I KEEP ON LIVING IN THIS WORLD?


BEN...
grip

LET'S DIE TO-GETHER.

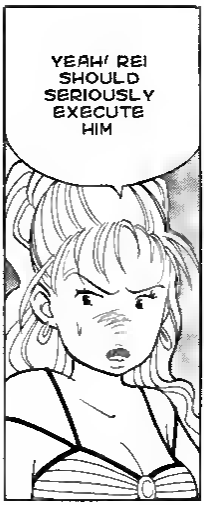

Waaaah!!
REI, REI!!
BAM


GAAAAAH!!!
FUCK YOU ASS-HOLE !!

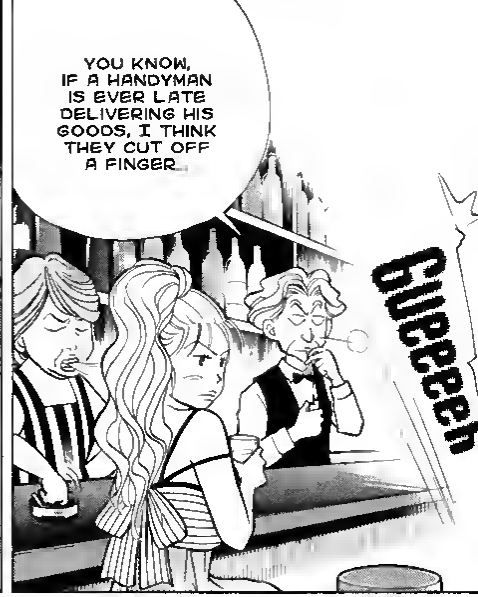

THAT'S EVEN WORSE!! YOU KNOW THAT KAI IS STILL HURT FROM LOSING HIS OWN PIANO!!

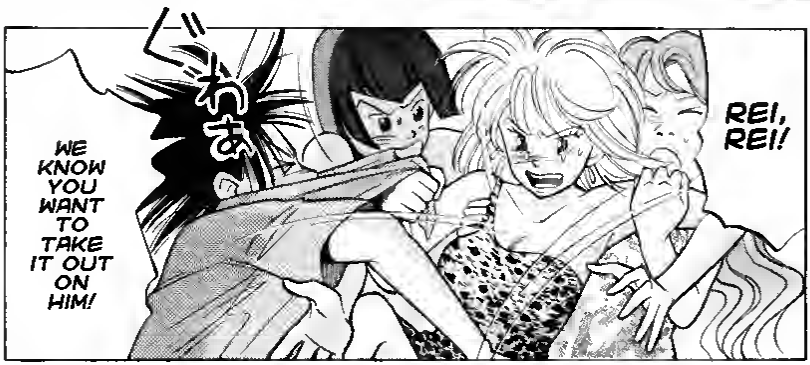
BUT THERE WAS A PIANO THERE...
AHHH, I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY !!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE HIM BEHIND HALF-WAY THERE, DON'T TAKE HIM ALONG IN THE FIRST PLACE!!!!


YEAH! REI SHOULD SERIOUSLY EXECUTE HIM

IN THAT CASE, IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO KAI, IT WOULDN'T JUST BE A MATTER OF ONE OR TWO FINGERS


YOU KNOW, IF A HANDYMAN IS EVER LATE DELIVERING HIS GOODS, I THINK THEY CUT OFF A FINGER...
GUPEEEEh

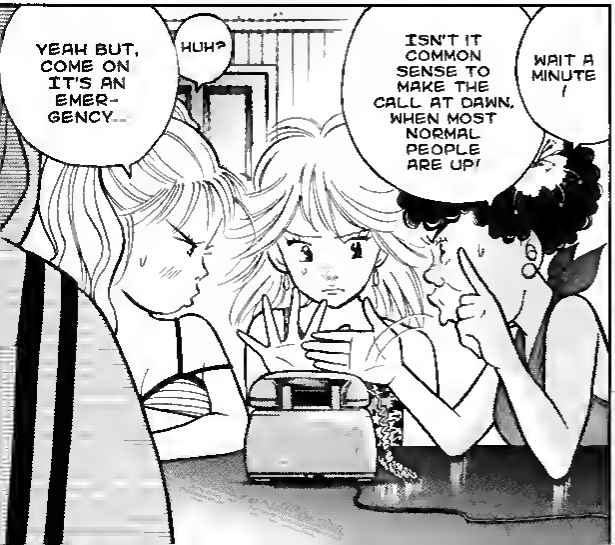

WE KNOW YOU WANT TO TAKE IT OUT ON HIM!
REI, REI!

DON'T COME ANY-WHERE NEAR REI UNTIL YOU'VE FOUND KAI AND BROUGHT HIM BACK !!!

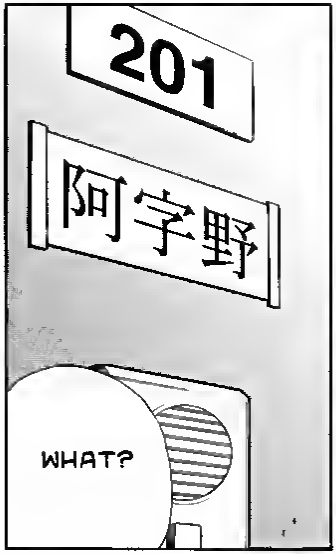
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOME-THING, GO LOOK FOR KAI!!!
ANY-WAY, BEN!!

REI,
CAN YOU THINK OF ANY PLACE KAI MIGHT GO?

WE'VE DONE EVERY-THING WE CAN DO FOR NOW
WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT!

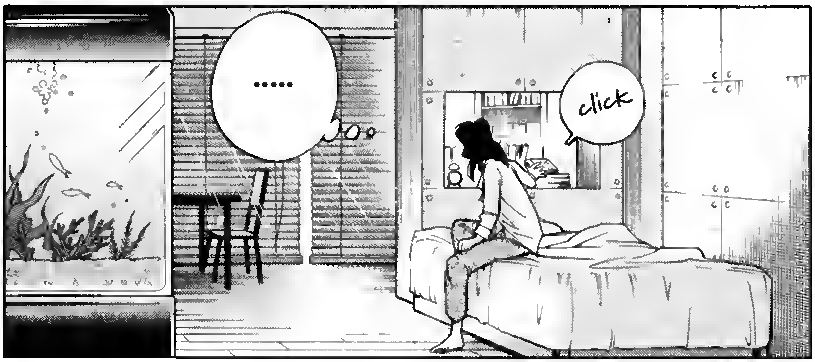

WAIT A MINUTE!
ISN'T IT COMMON SENSE TO MAKE THE CALL AT DAWN, WHEN MOST NORMAL PEOPLE ARE UP!
HUH?
YEAH BUT, COME ON IT'S AN EMER-GENCY...

LET'S GO, TEN-MARU!

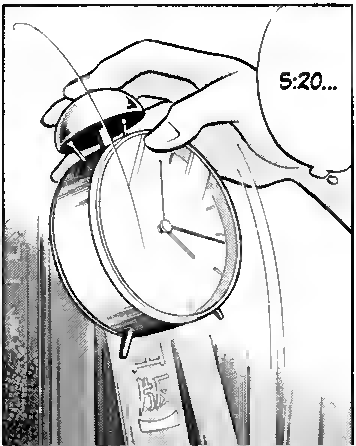


[Ajino]

NO, NOT ALL. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I UNDERSTAND. BEFORE I HEAD OUT TO SCHOOL, I'LL PASS BY THERE.
ICHINOSE SINCE YESTERDAY?


.....
click

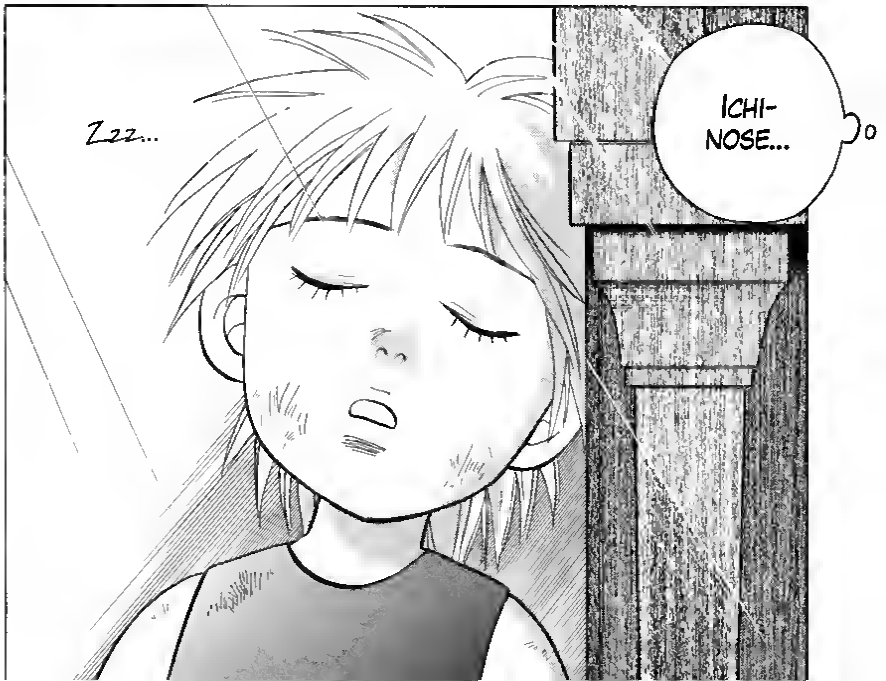
SHOULD I MAKE A CALL TO THE POLICE...

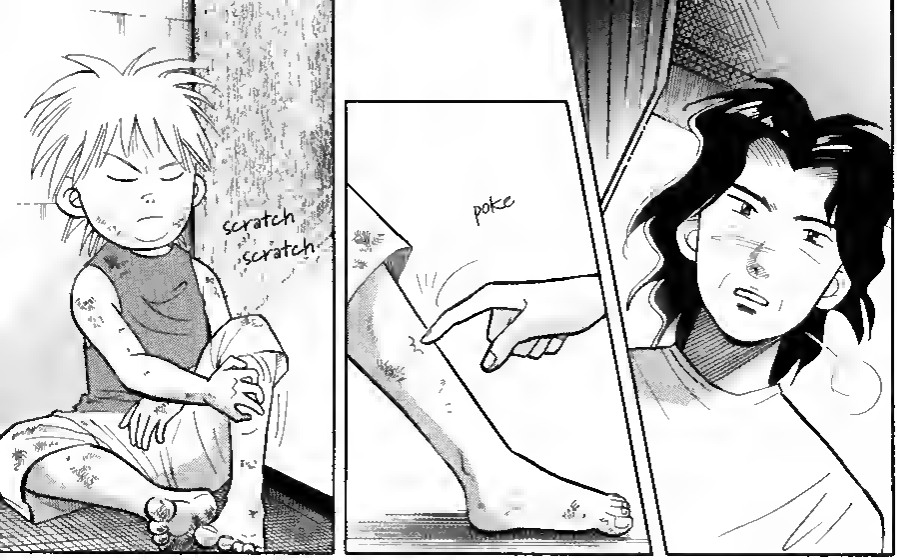

5:20...

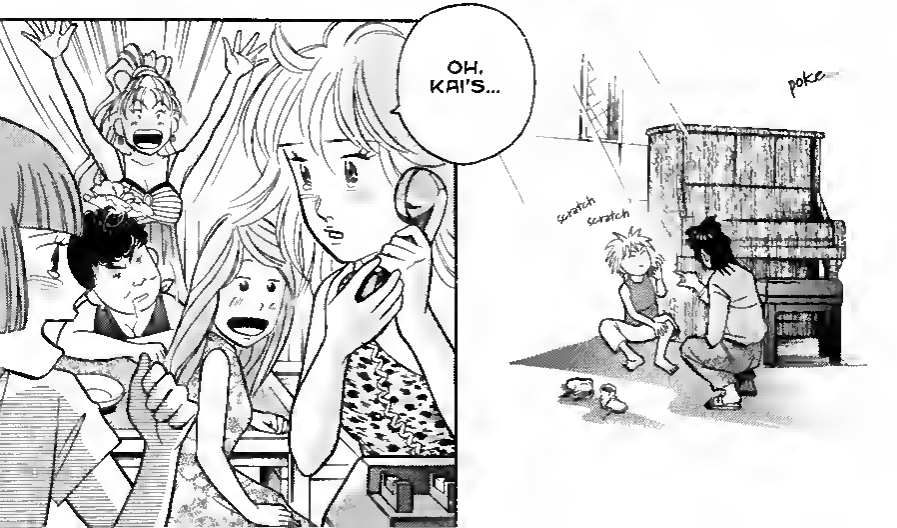
AH...
beep
beep
MAYBE IF...

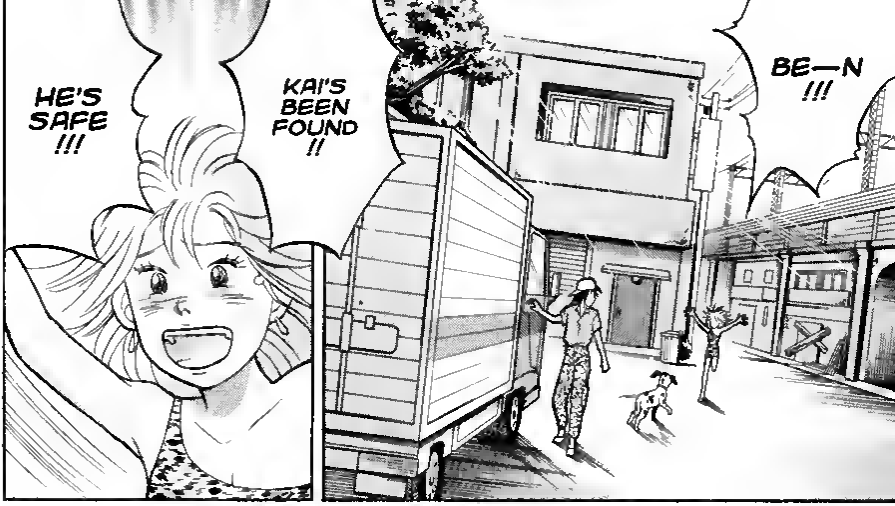
CLACK

I-

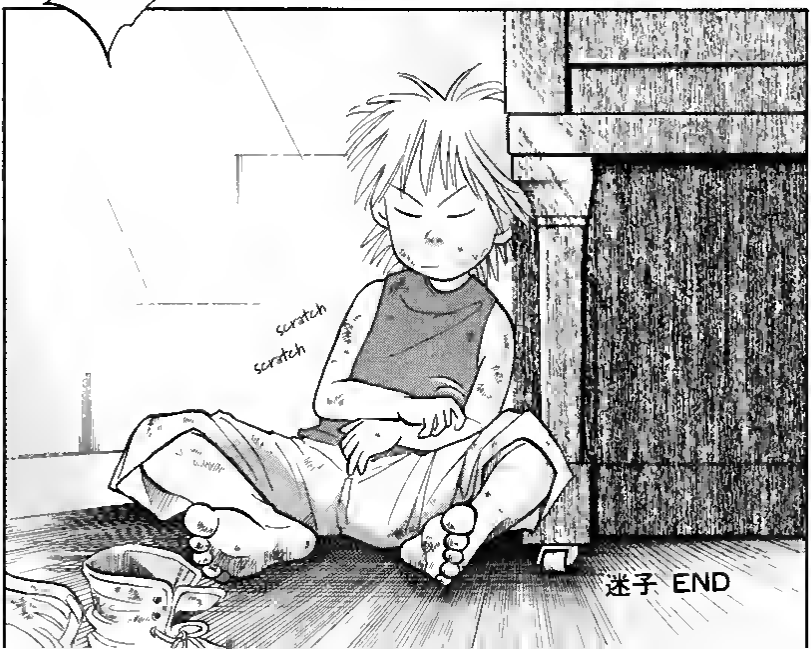

ICHI-
NOSE...
Zzz...


scratch
scratch
poke


OH, KAI'S...
poke
scratch
scratch


HE'S SAFE !!!
KAI'S BEEN FOUND !!
BE—N !!!

HE WAS SLEEPING NEXT TO A PIANO !!!
HE'S COVERED WITH DIRT, BUT HE'S NOT HURT AT ALL!!


scratch
scratch
迷子 END

THAT MAKES IT THE SECOND TIME,
THAT I'VE FOUND HIM BASKING IN THE MORNING LIGHT...

Chapter 58 Resolve

The Perfect World of KAI

KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK KNOCK
HM?
AH...
MORNING.

I'M AWAKE.

ARE YOU AWAKE ?

GOOD

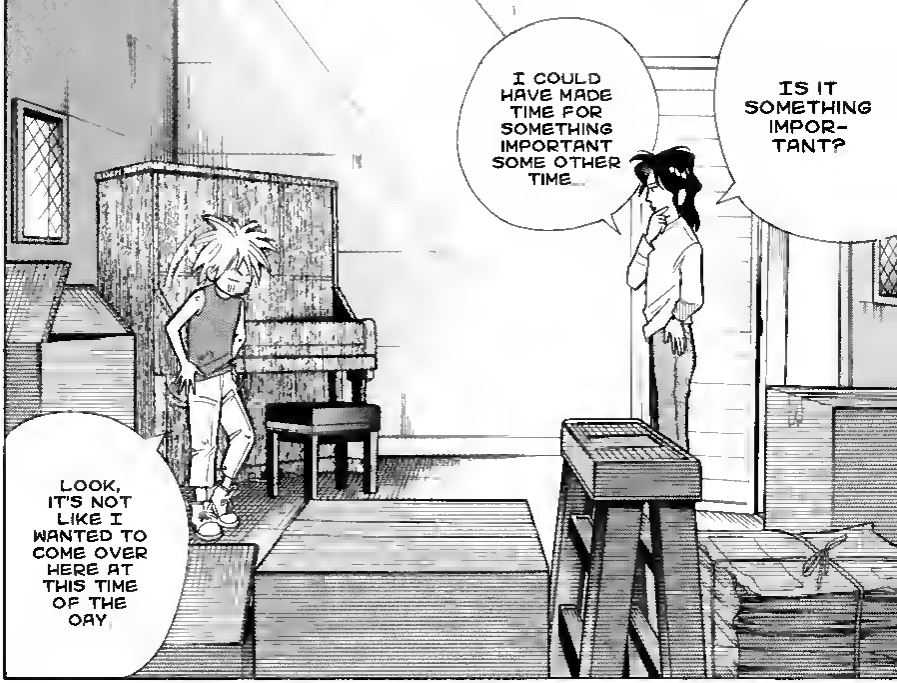
MORNING.

BUT YOU SHOULO MAKE SURE TO LET YOUR MOM KNOW, SO SHE OOESN'T WORRY.

YOU CAN COME PLAY THE PIANO WHENEVER YOU WANT

HAHAHA

I CAME HERE TO SEE YOU.
REALLY COME HERE TO PLAY THE PIANO.
I DIDN'T
THAT I NEED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT.
THERE IS SOME-THING...



IS IT SOMETHING IMPOR-TANT?

I COULD HAVE MADE TIME FOR SOMETHING IMPORTANT SOME OTHER TIME...

LOOK, IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED TO COME OVER HERE AT THIS TIME OF THE DAY.

BUT IT'S A VERY IMPOR-TANT TALK!

MAN TO MAN...

ぐお

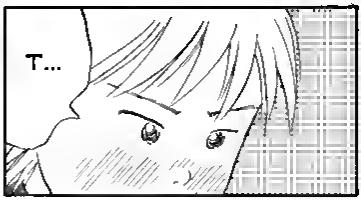
GROWL

きゅるきゅる

きゅ

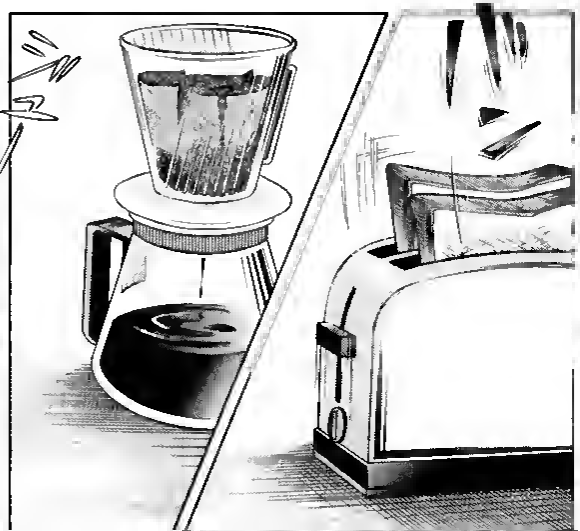
THANKS.

BUT FIRST, LET'S GO EAT SOME-THING
UNDER-STOOO


T...

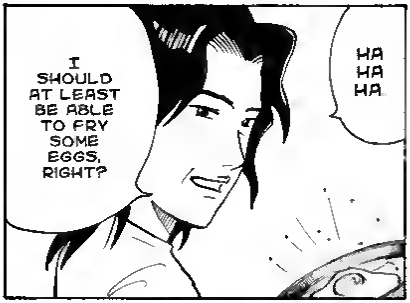
阿字野

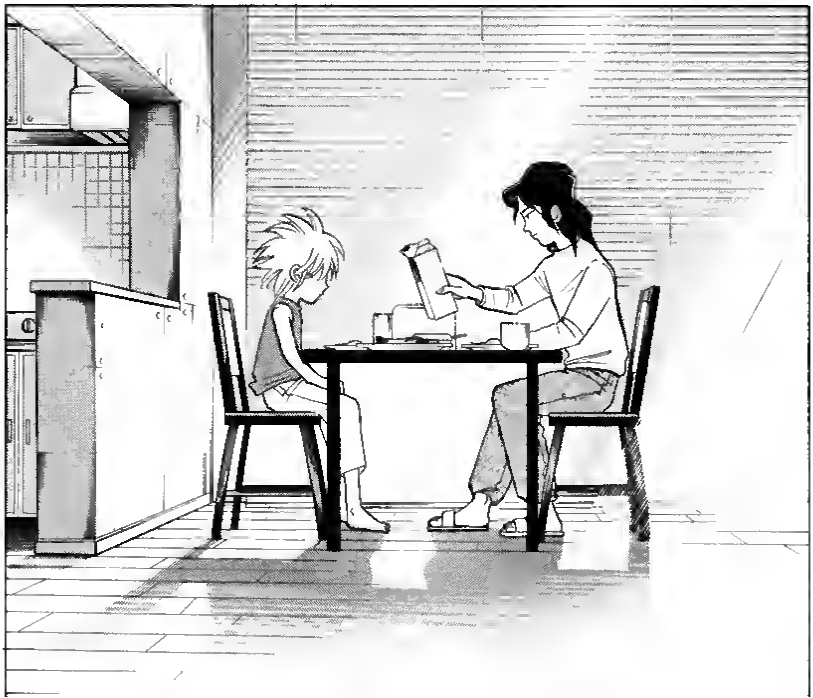
...


ジュー

YOU'RE COOKING, TEACHER.
YEAH.

SOME-THING STRANGE ?


I SHOULD AT LEAST BE ABLE TO FRY SOME EGGS, RIGHT?
HA HA HA



AND I DON'T MEAN...
I WANT TO PLAY THE PIANO!
コポ
コポ
REAL SERIOUS PIANO.
PLAYING FOR FUN LIKE I'VE BEEN 'TIL NOW...
AND GET PAID TO DO IT!
I GOT IT.

YOUR MOM HAS ASKED ME TO TAKE YOU UNDER MY CARE...

SO KAI,

NOW HURRY UP AND EAT.

I GOT IT. I GOT IT.

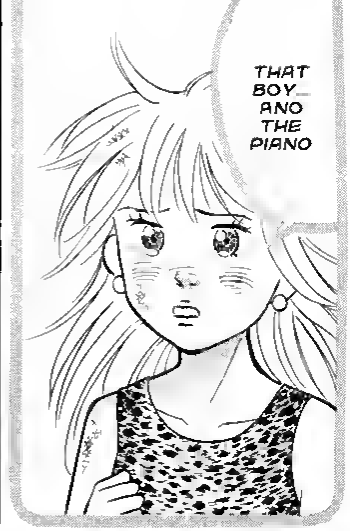
TEACH-ER,

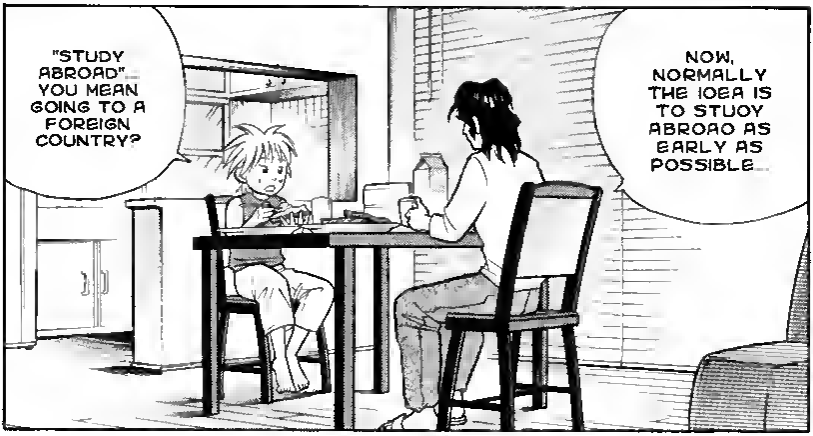
TAKE KAI WITH YOU.

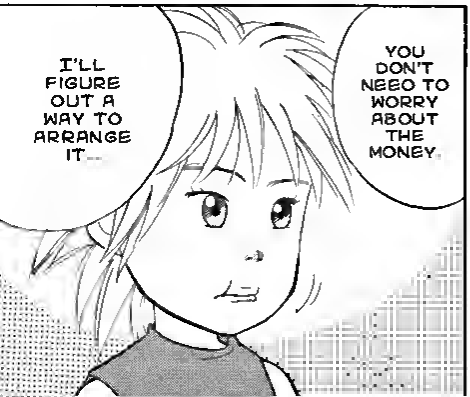
AND ALLOW YOU TO FREELY PLAY THE PIANO...

TO TAKE YOU OUT OF THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST,"

I WILL THINK OF A WAY.
IF YOUR HEART IS SET...

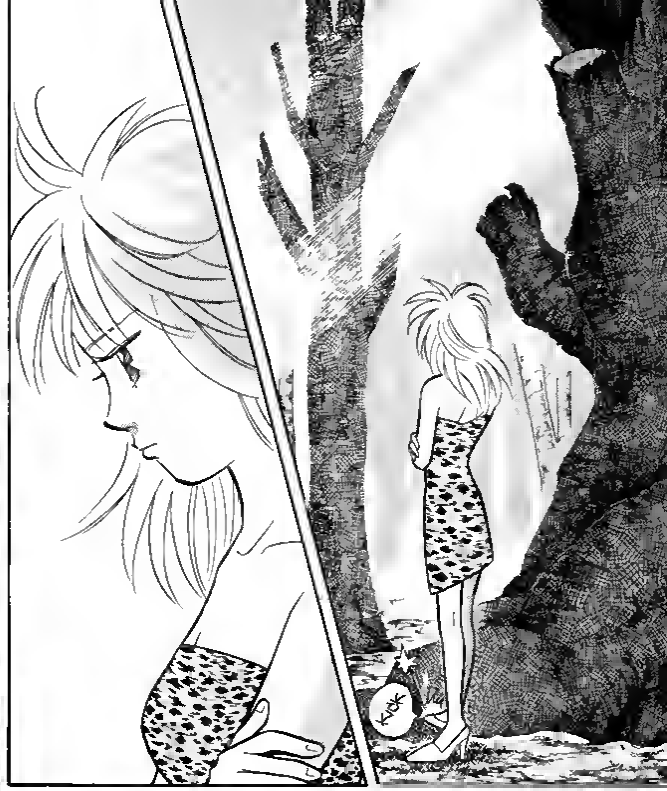

THAT BOY... AND THE PIANO


"STUDY ABROAD"... YOU MEAN GOING TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY?
NOW, NORMALLY THE IDEA IS TO STUDY ABROAD AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE...

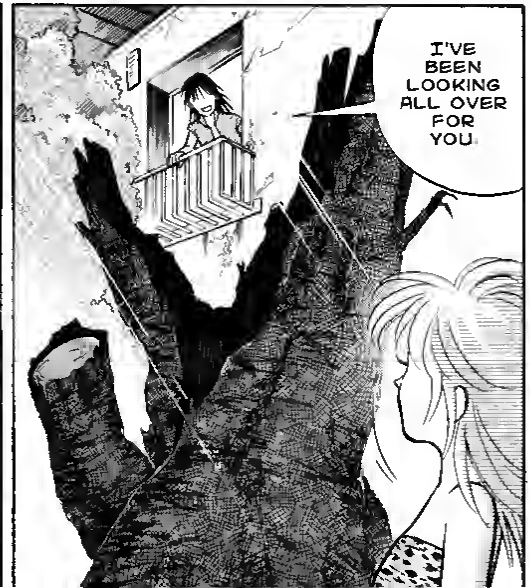

I'LL FIGURE OUT A WAY TO ARRANGE IT...
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE MONEY.

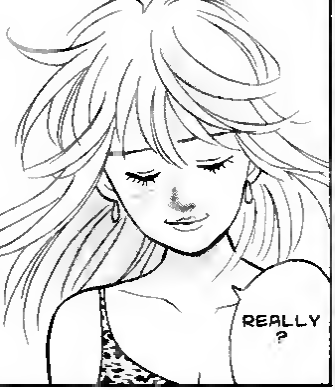
THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN FROM THE BEST PIANISTS IN THE WORLD
THAT'S RIGHT.

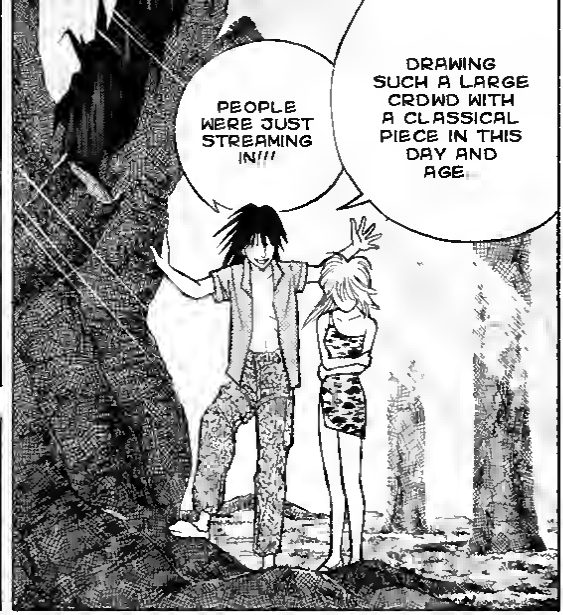
AHHH, REI!
THERE YOU ARE!!

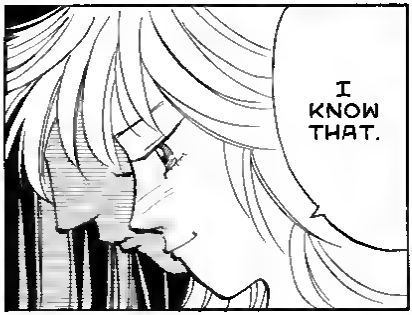


IT WAS REALLY AWE-SOME.
KAI'S PIANO.


I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.

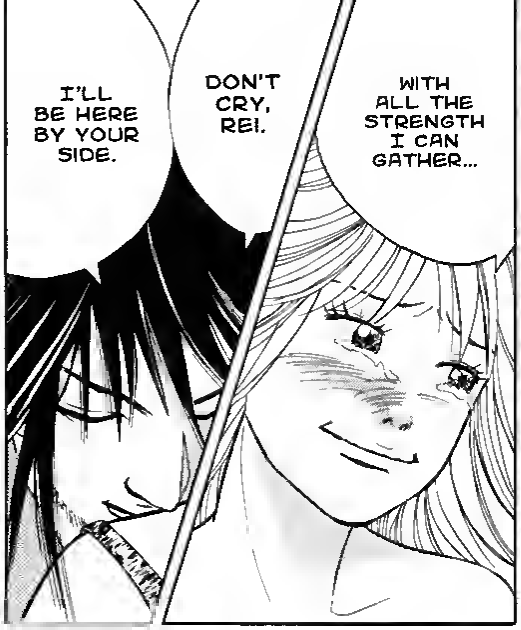

REALLY ?


PEOPLE WERE JUST STREAMING IN!!!
DRAWING SUCH A LARGE CROWD WITH A CLASSICAL PIECE IN THIS DAY AND AGE.

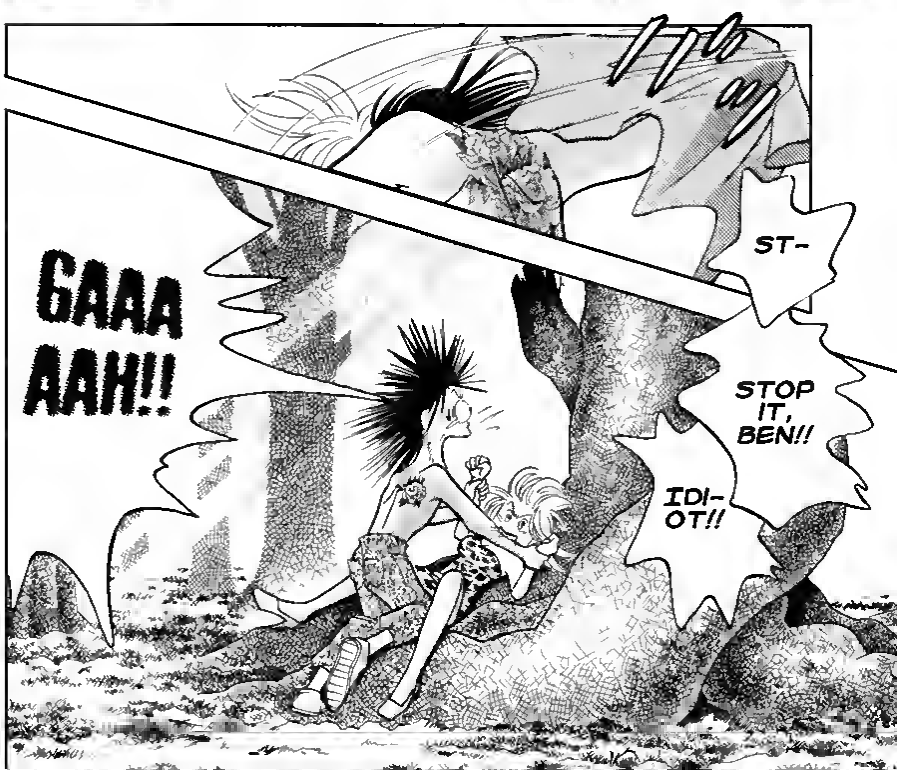

I KNOW THAT.

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO LET HIM GO?

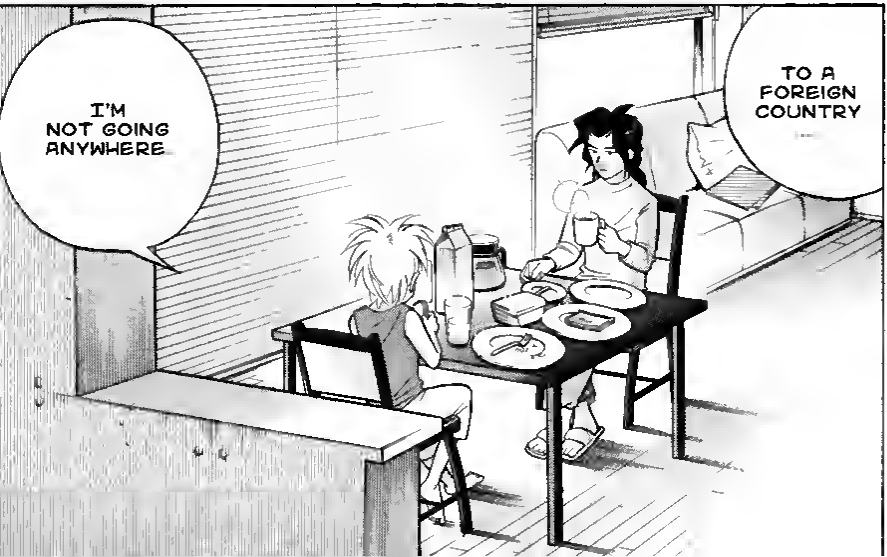
THIS PLACE WON'T BE BIG ENOUGH FOR HIS TALENT.
HE'S NO ORDINARY KID, ALL RIGHT.


I'LL BE HERE BY YOUR SIDE.
DON'T CRY, REI.
WITH ALL THE STRENGTH I CAN GATHER...

I'LL CUT OUR TIES COMPLETELY
I'LL LET HIM GO.

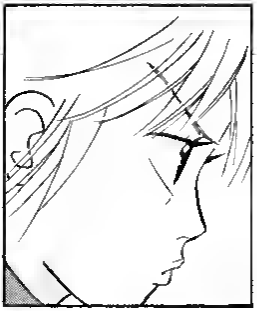

GAAA AAH!!
ST-
STOP IT, BEN!!
IDI-OT!!

I'M NOT GOING


I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE
TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY

I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE HER SIDE

I DOESN'T MATTER WHAT REI SAYS,



BUT THAT IS WHAT SHE WISHES FOR YOU.

YOU ARE STILL YOUNG TO LEAVE YOUR MOTHER'S SIDE,

WE'RE NOT GOING TO FALL APART WHEN WE ARE OUT ON OUR OWN.

KAI AND I HAVE BEEN PARTNERS IN BATTLE !!

THEY SAY CHILDREN ABSORB THE GOOD AND THE BAD OF THE PARENTS THEY ARE BORN TO, AND THE SURROUNDINGS THEY LIVE IN.

EVEN IF THAT WASN'T THE CASE, STAYING IN THE "EDGE OF THE FOREST" WILL BE TOUGH

SO YOU'D BETTER BE PREPARED, KAI!

I SYMPA-THIZE WITH HER FEELINGS ON THIS,

NOT YOU, NOT REI,

NOBODY UNDER-STANDS ANYTHING

PEOPLE DON'T UNDER-STAND

I HAVE BEEN BORN TO.

REI IS THE PARENT

BUT I WILL DECIDE MY FUTURE MYSELF.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT REI OR ANYBODY ELSE,

BUT I'VE LIVED IN THIS PLACE EVER SINCE I WAS BORN, SO IT'S NO BIG DEAL

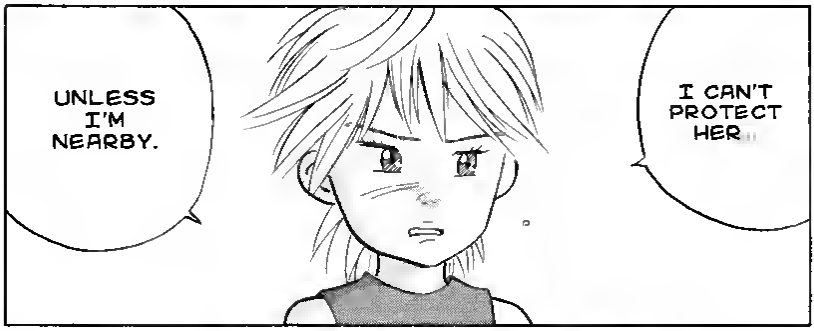
MY SURROUNDINGS JUST HAPPEN TO BE SOMETHING REI STUCK WITH ALL THIS TIME.

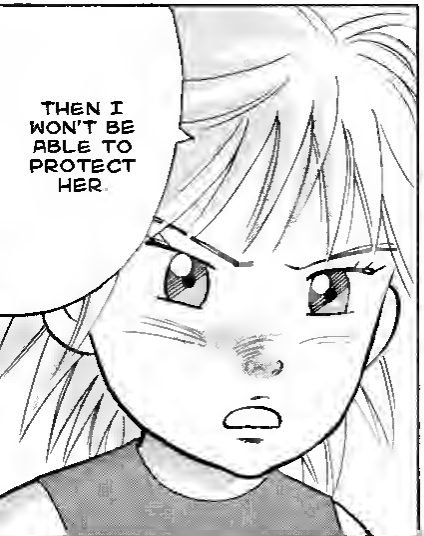
sheesh

IF SHE HEARD ME CASUALLY BOASTING ABOUT THAT, SHE'D GIVE ME HELL.

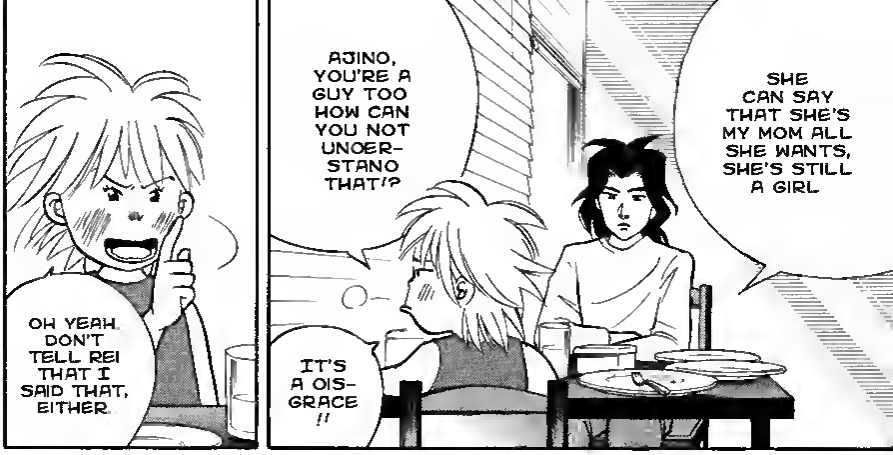
AH! DON'T TELL REI THAT I SAID THAT, THOUGH

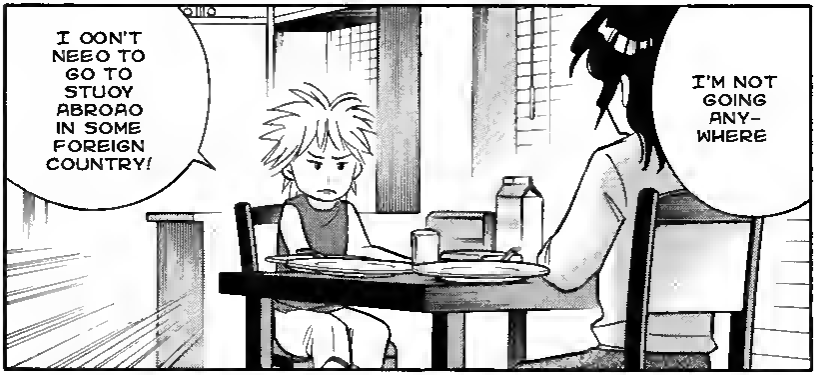
ISN'T BECAUSE I'M A CHILD THAT CAN'T BEAR TO BE AWAY FROM HIS MOM!!
Don't make fun of me!
BY THE WAY THE REASON THAT I CANNOT LEAVE REI


UNLESS I'M NEARBY.
I CAN'T PROTECT HER

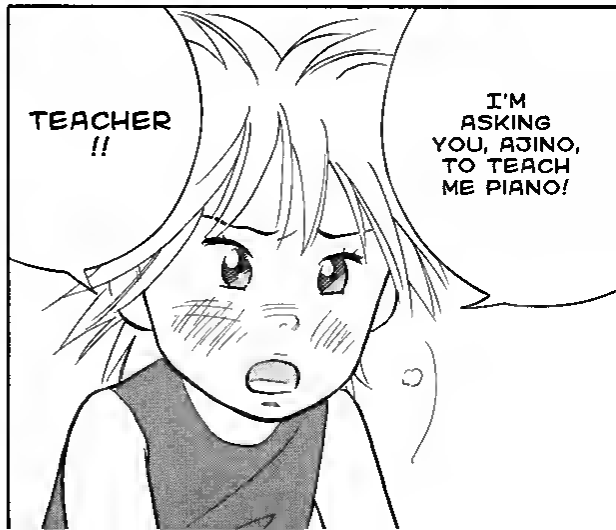

THEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT HER.

IF I PACK UP AND GO,

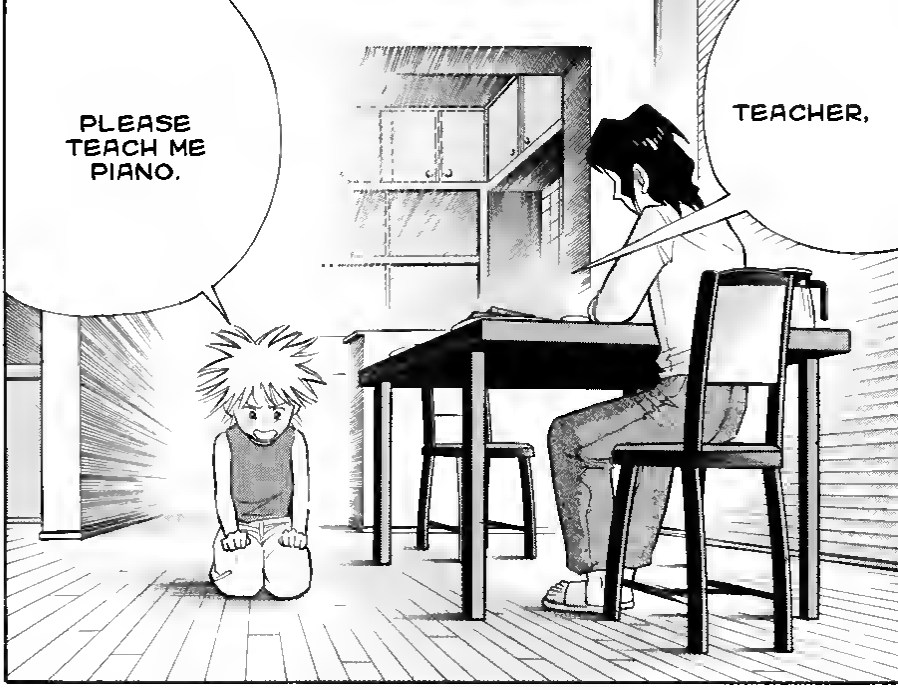

OH YEAH. DON'T TELL REI THAT I SAID THAT, EITHER.
AJINO, YOU'RE A GUY TOO HOW CAN YOU NOT UNDER-STAND THAT!?
IT'S A DIS-GRACE !!
SHE CAN SAY THAT SHE'S MY MOM ALL SHE WANTS, SHE'S STILL A GIRL


I DON'T NEED TO GO TO STUDY ABROAD IN SOME FOREIGN COUNTRY!
I'M NOT GOING ANY-WHERE

MY TEACH-ER—


TEACHER !!
I'M ASKING YOU, AJINO, TO TEACH ME PIANO!

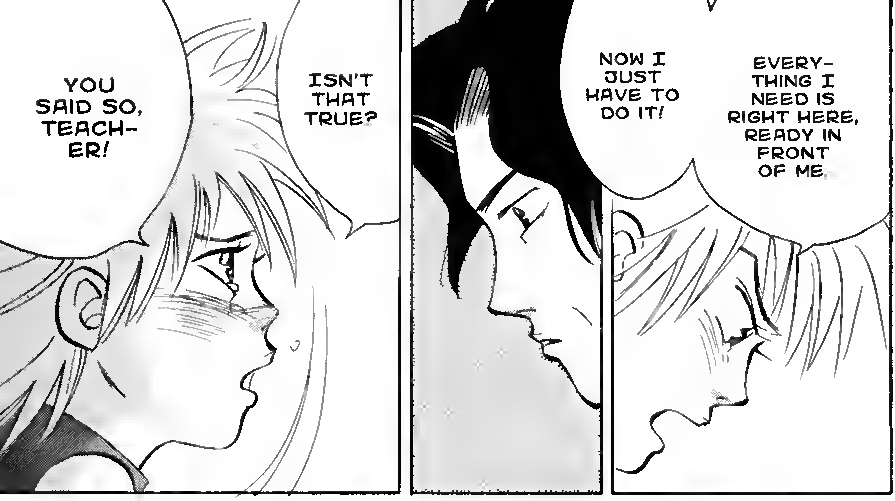
RIGHT HERE IN JAPAN !!
MY TEACHER IS RIGHT HERE, RIGHT!?
ICHI-NOSE.
I-

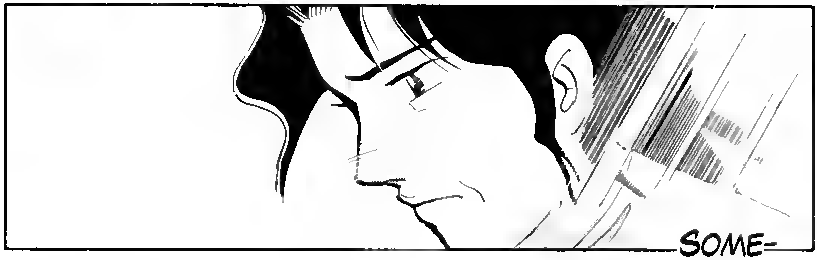

PLEASE TEACH ME PIANO.
TEACHER,

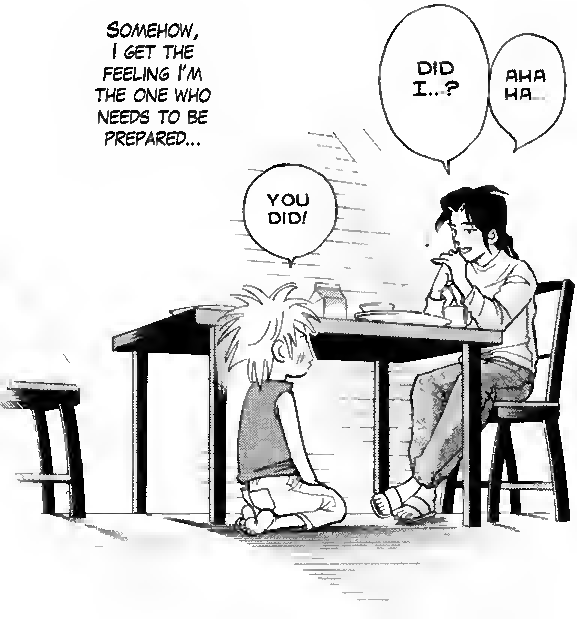
PLEASE, PLEASE TEACH ME PIANO.

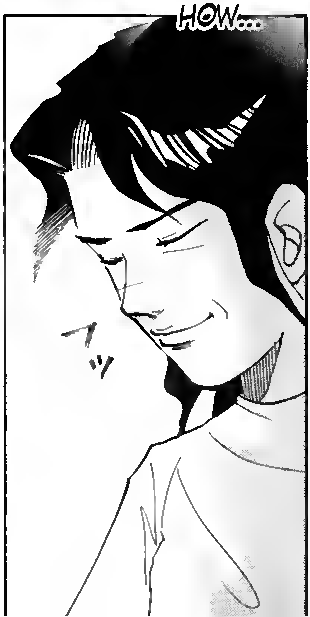
SO...

I MUST BE ABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO SO I CAN PUT FOOO ON THE TABLE. NOT ONLY FOR REI, BUT EVERYBOOY IN THE "EOGE OF THE FOREST."


YOU SAID SO, TEACH-ER!
ISN'T THAT TRUE?
NOW I JUST HAVE TO DO IT!
EVERY-THING I NEED IS RIGHT HERE, READY IN FRONT OF ME.


SOME-HOW...


SOMEHOW, I GET THE FEELING I'M THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO BE PREPARED...
DID I...?
AHA HA...
YOU DID!



WHY IT COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY LIFE AS WELL...
I CURSED MYSELF, FROM TIME TO TIME WONDERING
WHEN I LOST MY FIANCE, AND MY FUTURE AS A PIANIST IN THAT CAR ACCIDENT YEARS AGO...

SO I MAY PRESENT HIM TO THE BRIGHT, SHINING WORLD.

PERHAPS I HAVE BEEN SPARED,

To be continued in volume 8...

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